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Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad sent President-Elect Bill Clinton a cable of congratulations, which was broadcast by Damascus Radio. In the cable al-Asad expressed "the hope that the improvement in Syrian-U.S. ties, which began during the rule of your predecessor, will continue under your rule." Al-Asad expressed his belief that the Middle East peace process will continue, based on the principle of "trading land for peace" and on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Iran

Tehran radio is charging that the U.S. State Department spokesman "implicitly accepted the espionage charge" against "the American spy Milton Meier" by appealing to Iran "to allow the Swiss Embassy staff in Tehran to privately visit" him.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn presented the Bush Administration with the name of four possible Iraqis to succeed him "a few days ago," Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF reports. According to the same source, these men "have worked for many years with the U.S. Administration...and have won confidence in Washington." At the top of the list was Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi ambassador to the United States until 1987, who was just recently appointed envoy to the United Nations. "U.S. authorities describe him as the most polite Iraqi official and the one most capable of understanding the U.S. position, but who always faced obstacles due to the Iraqi leadership's intransigence," according to the newspaper. The same source also claims that "about a month ago" Hamdun met with Bill Clinton in the presence of an Iraqi intelligence officer, who acts as Saddam's representative abroad, after it appeared that Clinton might defeat Bush.

Palestinian Affairs

Notables, Media React to Clinton's Victory

'Ashrawi, 'Urayqat on Peace Process

TA0511152492 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Washington—The Palestinian Delegation's Information Center—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's spokesman, expressed the hope that the new U.S. Administration, headed by Bill Clinton, will continue to advance the peace process in the Middle East and adhere to the bases and requirements of this process.

Commenting on the victory of the Democratic Party's nominee in the U.S. presidential election, 'Ashrawi said it is wrong to consider Clinton's remarks in the midst of his election campaign as official positions, noting that all statements made by presidential candidates during the election campaign vanish as soon as they win.

'Ashrawi said that U.S. policy toward Palestinian rights and Arab rights was never neutral. It is biased in favor of Israel. She said that the Palestinians do not believe that there is one American party for and another one against them.

'Ashrawi said that one who follows U.S. policy in the region can observe the continuity of this policy on the basis of U.S. strategic interests despite the change of faces. She noted that this policy is formulated by the establishment and does not depend on a certain person or party.

'Ashrawi drew attention to the fact that the U.S. elections, held two days ago, were conducted on purely domestic considerations. Foreign policy did not have any concrete role in those elections.

On her expectations from the new administration's stance, 'Ashrawi said that this administration's political features are not yet clear. That depends on several factors, including knowing Clinton's Middle East advisers, the secretary of state, and the team that will implement U.S. foreign policy.

'Ashrawi added that the Democratic Party has advisers and experts with vast expertise and knowledge of Middle East affairs, headed by former president Jimmy Carter, William Fulbright, and George McGovern.

'Ashrawi said that the statements made by Clinton during his election campaign stressed the promotion of the peace process in the Middle East and commitment to this process as a pivotal point in U.S. policy. She noted that it will not be in the interests of any U.S. administration to undermine the current peace process.

'Ashrawi added that although domestic issues dominated the U.S. elections, one should not underestimate the importance of foreign policy for the new administration. She said that as a superpower, the United States should play an active role on the international scene. Its economic needs and vital interests require it to play a responsible role in resolving regional conflicts, particularly in the Middle East.

'Ashrawi indicated that some of the U.S. Democratic Party's principles represent a supporting pillar for the Palestinian problem. She said that this party's concern for the issues of human rights and its anti-discrimination policy constitute bases that can be used as an opening for dealing with the new administration.

'Ashrawi expected that the Bush administration's transitional phase will witness intensive political action and direct interest in the negotiating process, because this will provide an opportunity for cooperation between the two administrations to generate progress in the negotiations that could give continuity to the peace process after the new administration assumes power in January.

Palestinian delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that the United States has vital interests in the Middle East and it moves in the region on the basis of those interests. He said that the change of faces in the White House will not affect the Middle East peace process.

'Urayqat added that there is a U.S. commitment to the peace process through the letters of invitation sent to the parties in the conflict. He said that those letters affirm the need for reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the principle of land for peace and Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands.

'Urayqat said that the new U.S. administration will adhere to this stance, noting that Clinton's statements during his election campaign cannot be regarded as the official positions of the new administration. 'Urayqat expressed the belief that the U.S. stance in dealing with some issues, such as the Arab Gulf region for example, might differ, but it will not differ in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'Abd-Rabbuh Notes Contact With Democrats

NC0511123992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Tunis, 5 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh called for reconvening the Madrid Middle East peace conference to discuss means of developing the peace process and the Palestinian participation in the bilateral and multilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In an interview published in today's issue of [Tunis'] AL-SHURUQ, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that it is necessary to take tangible and practical measures, including expanding and activating the UN role in the peace process. He said these measures also include implementing the Security Council resolution passed two years ago, which called for sending UN observers to the occupied Palestinian territories to ensure a halt to Israel's violations and repressive measures, to supervise the situation in the occupied territories in general, and to help implement any steps or measures to be agreed on later, especially the matter of supervising the elections.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who heads the PLO's Information Department, held the new U.S. Administration responsible for satisfying the Palestinian demands because Washington is one of the principal cosponsors of the negotiations. He stressed the need for the Palestinians to obtain clear answers to these issues to give credibility to the peace process.

The Palestinian official said the outcome of the U.S. elections is proof of the American people's desire for profound domestic change in line with the conditions and changes in the contemporary world. He expressed his belief that the change will not affect Washington's foreign policy in various areas of the world, especially in the Middle East, because of its basic interests in these areas.

'Abd-Rabbuh revealed the existence of Palestinian ties with a number of influential circles in the victorious Democratic Party. He said these contacts existed before and during the election campaign and that there are party officials, including former President Jimmy Carter, who have affirmed that a Democratic administration will have a larger and more effective and positive role in the peace process.

Hopes for Change in Situation

NC0511132392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1233 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Tunis, 5 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that Bill Clinton's election as U.S. President is an expression of the American people's desire for change. He said the PLO hopes this also will be reflected in a change in the Middle East situation in terms achieving peace based on international legitimacy and preventing Israel from imposing a fait accompli and obstructing the ongoing political process in the region.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, 'Abd-Rabbuh said the new U.S. Administration possesses enough vitality to pursue the peace process. The change in administration could give a stronger impetus to the peace negotiations. He added that he does not believe that the basic U.S. interests in the region have been affected by the election of a new U.S. President. He expressed the hope that this also will be reflected in a change in the Middle East situation favoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and securing human rights and democracy.

AL-SHA'B Fears Interruption in Talks

TA0511191092 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Clinton and the Future of the Peace Process!"]

[Text] The marathon race on the U.S. scene reached its end with the victory of the Democratic nominee, Bill Clinton. President Bush departed unmourned after waging the biggest war against an Arab state in the name of international legitimacy, which in his era became an obedient tool that he moved whenever and wherever he wished without paying the slightest heed to human principles, laws, rights, and ideals.

If the new U.S. president, Bill Clinton, who will assume power officially in January, made numerous anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian statements during his election campaign, it is hoped that those statements will be bygone and be made only for obvious election purposes, and that he will launch a new era with the Arabs and the Palestinians in which he will implement international resolutions.

What is certain now is that a long time will pass before Clinton shows interest in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process. The peace talks will remain on hold for the next four to six months, which is what Israel was seeking to achieve. This will disrupt the timetable stipulated in the U.S. letter of invitation and will consequently increase doubts about the success of the peace process.

We will deal with the new president's administration with greater interest, while not entertaining any illusions. This interest stems from our eagerness to see the peace process achieve its desired objectives, just as we wish to see the United States, the major sponsor of the negotiations, assume the role that it should to generate the required progress in the negotiations and break the Israeli impasse.

Each day that passes without progress in the peace process will place a heavy burden on the negotiators, increase their distress, and undermine their positions before their peoples, especially the Palestinian people, whose patience has run out after waiting for an entire year for progress in the negotiations and for the nice words that they heard at the Madrid conference to be translated into action.

AL-QUDS Views Clinton Influence

TA0511203192 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 9

[Editorial: "The New U.S. President!"]

[Excerpts] The eyes of millions of people were glued on Washington for the last 20 hours, and the ears of those millions were straining to analyze the figures being disseminated by research centers and polling organizations. The race between the three men was very intense up to the last minute before Americans went to the voting booths. Within hours, the computers were working ferociously. It became clear even before the voting ended that Clinton, the orphan lawyer and the traditional opponent—because he is an intellectual Democrat—to the Vietnam war and to U.S. involvement in it had become—irrespective of the troubles and efforts that this man and his campaign team had gone through and regardless of the millions that he had spent in this campaign—the new president of the United States, which is not only a superpower but the greatest power in this sad world.

The reaction of governments, figures, and international assemblies was not just varied, but contradictory as well. The reaction varied between the shedding of tears for the

departing president by his friends and those who benefited from his adventures outside the American continent, including many in the Middle East, and the expected joy by those who had become weary of the former president's adventures—his adventures in the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and the European countries, which found themselves linked to the U.S. policy directed by Bush. They obeyed his orders when he wished to invade and obeyed them when he wanted to confiscate the United Nations. The man who ruled over the world's tears and laughter for a long time—which seemed an endless nightmare—has gone.

If the reactions were numerous and varied, what concerns us in this context is the reaction of governments in our Arab East, the things we can hope for in this ill-fated region after Bush's departure, and what share of these hopes will concern the Palestinians and the occupied territories.

Overall, the Arabs are angry to various extents. Some of them have lost a friend. Others believe that the peace process will be adversely affected. The new U.S. president might lack expertise on the Middle East region; he might become a remarkable supporter of Israel; he might spend a long time educating himself about the Palestinian problem; and this period might destroy the achievements of peace, if there are achievements that might be destroyed. [passage omitted]

The greatest significance of this new choice is whether Clinton will follow Bush's adventures in the world or pay more attention to American internal affairs and focus on external affairs with political ethics and a spirit of human rights. We in the occupied territories hope that Clinton's presidential term will be accompanied by progress in recognizing our right to a free and independent life and by clear behavior that lifts inequity and injustice from our people, who have been suffering for a long time. There is nothing to do but wait a little while, for words are only determined by deeds.

AL-FAJR on 'Pro-Israel' Stance

TA0511160892 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Remaining Balance Is National Unity and Arab Coordination"]

[Text] An expanded meeting will begin today in Tunis called by president 'Arafat himself. The secretaries general of factions and numerous political leaders, in addition to some members of the negotiating delegation, will participate in the meeting to discuss the current situation and adopt the necessary decisions. Evidently, Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election represents another reason for reinforcing the importance of this meeting in light of Clinton's statements during the final hours of his election campaign. All those statements were pro-Israel without the slightest wavering. Although there is no significant difference between those statements—if they are translated into practice—and the Bush administration's support for Israel, observers note that there will be a waiting period, which may be long or short, in which the current political settlement process will be frozen. In the face of this, the PLO should determine its stance and the mechanism for its moves and its Arab and international relations. It should do so in preparation for confronting the new phase with all the potential of national unity on one hand, and the potential of Arab coordination—whether with the Arab negotiating parties or with all the Arab states in general—on the other hand.

We stated before that U.S. policy and its strategic goals normally are not subject to any change in the presidency. This does not mean, however, that Bill Clinton will be "an exact copy of George Bush." Moreover, there is a three-month period between Clinton's entrance to the White House and Bush's exit from it, when he will visit his grandchildren—as he said. What will happen during this period? And will the second session of the seventh round on 9 November succeed in achieving "something" in the peace process?

Radio on PLO Stance

LD0511201192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, an enlarged Palestinian meeting will start in Tunis later today; brother President Leader 'Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had called for such a meeting, which will be attended by the general secretaries of the Palestinian detachments and a number of political personalities, in addition to a number of members of the Palestinian negotiating team, in order to examine the current situation and make the necessary decisions.

It is obvious, however, that Bill Clinton's victory will also add further weight to the importance of such a meeting in the light of Clinton's pronouncements in the dying hours of his election campaign, which were all, and without any exception, in support of Israel—notwithstanding the fact that the implementation of such pronouncements would not, in reality, be significantly different from the Bush administration's support for Israel.

Observers of this matter have, however, concluded that there will be an interval—which could be a short or a long one—during which the current peace process will be stalled. Given such a freeze, which could be intentional or unintentional, the PLO must define its stances and the mechanism of its moves and its inter-Arab and international relations in order to face up to the new phase with all the resources of the Palestinian national unity and the potential of Arab coordination, whether among Arab parties to the peace negotiations in particular, or among the rest of the Arab countries in general.

We have already asserted that the American policy and its strategic aims are not usually affected by a change of

presidents. This does, however, mean that Bill Clinton's positions will resemble those of George Bush. Also, there will be a three-month interval before Bill Clinton's inauguration in the White House and George Bush's exit to the house of his grandchildren—as he himself asserted. So what is going to happen during such an interval? Will the second round of talks of the seventh session—due to take place on 7 November—achieve anything toward a peace settlement?

Patience on Clinton Statements Urged

PM0511165992 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Clinton and Palestinian Issue"]

[Text] Although former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was the first to congratulate new U.S. President Bill Clinton and the first to rejoice at former President George Bush's downfall, it does not mean that we Palestinians should believe that the results of the U.S. elections are beneficial for Israel and its expansionist policies in our occupied territories.

True, it was former President George Bush who invented the present negotiation process and dragged the Arabs and Israelis into the peace negotiations in Madrid. But we must remember that Bush did this to serve his country's interests and to try to firmly establish his credibility and conceal his crimes against the Arabs resulting from the Gulf war and his military intervention against Iraq.

We are the sons of a just cause and a people struggling for its legitimate right to self-determination and to return to our homes and establish an independent state. No U.S. president can avoid this fact. U.S. presidents who have been biased toward Israel have come and gone, but the Palestinian struggle has continued with strength and without interruption.

It is premature to deal with Clinton on the basis of some of the statements he made in the past and during his election campaign—which seemed biased toward Israel—before he moves into the White House and assumes power. It is very wise to wait.

Our opinion does not differ from that many of the people who see the next four months as a transitional and serious phase for the Palestinian issue. This is because in this period Israel will not be exposed to any political pressure from the U.S. Administration, the sponsor of the peace conference. Thus it could resort to building new settlements in the occupied Arab territories. This danger can be confronted by launching active political and diplomatic moves in the United States itself, and by making direct contacts with President Clinton's aides. All of this should coincide with the escalation of the intifadah in order to attract the world media's attention to our fateful issues.

The Palestinian issue has experienced numerous biased presidents who threw themselves into Israel's arms. Former President George Bush was no different; in fact, he was worse. He initiated a dialogue with the PLO but did not complete it. He excluded the PLO completely from the negotiation process. He tried to divide the Palestinian people into those inside and those outside [the occupied territories]. He imposed his view concerning the Palestinian negotiating delegation. And he excluded holy Jerusalem from the negotiations and from representation in the delegation.

Without doubt, the negotiation process could be affected in one way or another as a result of the change of the U.S. Administration. Even if it is spared this negative effect, it will be delayed for a few months. But we must remember that seven rounds of bilateral negotiations have produced no tangible or intangible progress. A year has elapsed since their launch, but the transitional phase has not begun as stipulated in the letter of assurances.

The policy of displaying self-restraint, patience, wisdom, and a reduction in the amount negative statements against the new administration at this stage—all of these are basic commandments which no Palestinian official should forget.

We must always bear in mind that Clinton, who succeeded because of his "change" slogan, and the political and economic need for change, will find himself facing demands to implement this slogan, not only in the United States but at the level of the world as a whole. No region in the world needs change more than our Arab region. And no issue needs a solution more than our Palestinian issue.

President Bush tried to impose stability in the region in his own way—that is, by the use of force to destroy Iraq. He destroyed Iraq but the region did not become more stable. In fact, his administration was confronted with new mines. As long as the Palestinian issue is still unresolved, tension will continue and stability evaporate. Clinton, who is seeking economic prosperity for his country and an end to the state of stagnation it is experiencing, is in pressing need of stability in the Arab region.

Prospects for Arab 'Rationalism' Viewed

PM0511152092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Bush... Clinton... and al-Sadat"]

[Text] The surprise is not Bill Clinton's victory and winning of the presidency of the strongest nation in the world, but George Bush's overwhelming defeat with such a huge margin, which amounts to a knockout.

The victory and the defeat mean that the U.S. people have withdrawn their confidence in all that has happened over the past two years, namely the false victory in

the Arab Gulf region, and have chosen change—a change of president and of priorities.

The U.S. people have expressed their opinions of their President openly, and we do not begrudge them for that, because they deserve their democracy, which they have struggled for and have protected. They allowed no one to deceive them, since their own interests, not those of others, take precedence over all considerations. President Bush has proven that he is suitable to be an Arab president, since he told lies, was deceptive, displayed arrogance and tyranny toward the weak, and displayed no humility at all. And he now sees our Arab region through the boreholes in the Kuwaiti dishdashah [robe], so he deserves what has happened to him and his lack of consolation, since no one before him has ever likened his rivals to dogs other than an Arab president named Anwar al-Sadat.

Some Arabs mistakenly imagined that the U.S. president was guaranteed another term, so they slept happily and acted with confidence. Now we have the results, which prove how wrong they were.

President Bush's problem with the Arabs is that he has never risen to the level of the standing he achieved. He behaved during his sole presidential term like the head of a small department in the CIA, becoming addicted to dealing with minor subjects and insignificant people. And he interfered with everything in our region. There is nothing left for him in his final days to do except interfere with the choice of headlines in the Arab newspapers and dictate the papers' political editorials.

Whether Clinton is a better or worse president does not concern us much. His people chose him; we did not. This is why he will place American interests above all other interests. He is accountable to them. He will be judged by their elected institutions. When we have the same situation, we will not have any problems dealing with the U.S. president, nor will there be any fear of his bias toward our enemies.

We must always remember that Clinton comes from a small state which has nothing to do with foreign policy, arms deals, or oil companies. Nor is he a merchant or a businessman. His father was an ordinary man. He lived a lonely life and was educated in the schools and universities of the poor. What he has achieved is due to his own merits. He demonstrated against war and supported peace movements. All this is a "nucleus" for optimism, even if this optimism is limited.

It is untrue that Clinton succeeded with the Jews' votes. It is untrue that their dollars toppled his rival, Bush. What is true is that the American people are active people who are thirsty for change, abhor monotony, and look for development and advancement. This is why their country has become the sole superpower in the world. Even if Clinton displays bias toward Israel, that bias will not be new to us or surprise us. Not only did President Bush display bias toward Israel, but he enjoyed humiliating the Arabs and hurting their dignity both with and without justification. Anyone who wants to dispute this can refer to Schwarzkopf's memoirs, George Bush's statements, and Congressional minutes.

Certainly Clinton lacks foreign, and perhaps domestic, policy experience, but it is useful to point out that he will be surrounded by a group of highly experienced senators and Democratic Party greats like Les Aspin, Sam Nunn, Lee Hamilton, and others who fight the White House daily and who have been discussing its policies for at least the past 12 years.

President Bush's downfall and Clinton's arrival create a golden opportunity for the Arabs to return to rationalism and restore humility to those among them who have practiced oppression and tyranny, seeking protection from Washington's big stick. Only now we can see that balance "has become possible" and that demanding the opening of a new page no longer inspires ridicule.

Groups Note PLO's Financial 'Irregularities'

NC0611111692 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Nov 92 p 21

[Text] The 10 Damascus-based Palestinian groups are talking about financial irregularities inside the PLO. Sources of some of these groups have told ROSE AL-YUSUF about a "hot Turkish bath" deal that the PLO has recently concluded for installation in the houses of its prominent members before winter.

In an exclusive statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF, Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that PLO funds are being squandered on bureaucracy and lavish living. He added that the PLO budget for 1991-92 was $210 million, of which only $10 million was for the intifadah and $100 million was for the PLO's military equipment.

On the other hand, Palestinian opposition sources have told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the meeting of the PLO Central Council in Tunisia two weeks ago saw a sharp disagreement between Yasir 'Arafat and some council members who have been asking him since his marriage to Suha al-Tawil to transfer the PLO funds and possessions registered in his name to a financial committee to be formed. 'Arafat told them: "I don't want anyone to talk to me about this issue."

Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, has said that prominent figures inside the PLO itself have expressed their annoyance and anger with the inappropriate way in which 'Arafat spoke about Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, alias Umm-Jihad, wife of martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], when he spoke about her expensive clothes and lavish lifestyle.

Egypt

Impact of Clinton Victory on Peace Process Viewed

NC0511222392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "The New U.S. Administration and the Problems and Issues of the World and the Middle East"]

[Text] Now that the U.S. presidential elections have ended and American voters have chosen a Democratic administration to lead the country in place of the Republican administration that held office for the past 12 years, important questions arise concerning possible changes in U.S. policies and stands.

In fact, these questions have risen strongly since opinion polls held during the election campaign indicated that Democratic candidate Bill Clinton would win. Bill Clinton is now the U.S. president-elect and will take office in January.

These questions are not confined to a particular country; they concern the entire word. Like it or not, the United States is currently the largest and strongest country in the world. Therefore, its policies and stands affect the entire world's affairs. We disagree with those who say that the post-Cold War world is a unipolar one following the demise of the former Soviet Union. This is an erroneous description of the current world affairs. In addition to the United States, other large and strong countries have great influence on charting and directing the course of world events and developments.

Although these countries are not in an ideological conflict with the United States, the competition for interests between the sides is strong and could be more fierce, even if it is peaceful. Yet the U.S. stands and policies should be regarded as of primary importance, a situation that may continue for many decades to come. We need to try to understand what the effects of the change of the U.S. administration will have on our bilateral relations and on the situation and vital issues of Egypt and our region.

We do not think that Egyptian-U.S. relations, which have been special since the mid-seventies, will be affected by the change in administrations. What governs these relations is the harmony between the two countries' policies and stands, an element both sides are eager to maintain.

What is said about Egyptian-U.S. relations may apply to Arab-U.S. ties in general. It is no secret that the Gulf War added a new dimension to traditional Arab-U.S. relations, especially after the Middle East region emerged from the circle of conflict after the end of the Cold War.

This takes us to the major issue in the Middle East: Regional peace and security. The Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict constitute the most dangerous threat to Middle East peace and security and, in turn, to the vital international interests in it. The region's peace has become both a regional and international necessity. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to engage in the current peace process among the various Arab countries and Israel.

The elements of establishing peace in the region are firm and well-known to all direct and indirect parties to this process. Very simply, these elements center on the Palestinian people's recovery of their legitimate rights and their right to self-determination, on Israel's withdrawal from all the territories it occupied in 1967, and on recognition of the right of all the region's countries to live in peace within secure borders recognized by both sides. These elements can not change with a change in the U.S. Administration.

Concerning signals that the new U.S. Democratic administration may be biased towards Israel, as it seemed during the campaign, we must admit that U.S.-Israeli relations are very intimate, strategic, and firm regardless of whether under the Republicans or Democrats are in power. The conditions for regional peace will not change with the change of the U.S. Administration.

Dailies Comment on Election

NC0611090992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0619 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Cairo newspapers continue today to comment on Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election. AL-AHRAM says that, because of previous experience indicating that election campaign statements are not necessarily binding on a U.S. president after his election, it is too early to assess the direction U.S. policy will take under Clinton's new administration. The paper remarks that we must not forget that U.S. foreign policy is generally governed by constant rules and strategies that do not change with presidents and that the differences between one administration and another are restricted to methods and priorities.

The paper adds that Clinton's victory does not arouse any fear that the Middle East peace negotiations will stumble or that the United States will abandon its active role in them.

The paper mentions President Husni Mubarak's cables to President Bush and President-elect Clinton expressing the wish to boost peace prospects in the Middle East, and it asserts that Cairo's relationship with Washington will grow stronger because it is based on compatibility, understanding, and mutual respect.

AL-AKHBAR says that Clinton's promises to Israel are part of the statements made during every U.S. presidential election campaign. They are usually designed to win

the support of Jewish voters but do not in themselves signify any formal U.S. commitment.

The paper cites a statement by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. ambassador to Egypt, that Washington has profound respect for Egypt's positive role in the Middle East peace process and that excellent relations with it will continue under Clinton's democratic administration.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says Clinton's victory is very significant, not because it occurred in the world's preeminent country or because it came about at the expense of the man who ended the Cold War, but because it is the most important international event since the end of the Cold War and the socialist bloc's demise, which paved the way for progress toward a new world order.

The paper remarks: When the man falls and the leader who inaugurated the new world order disappears, this raises many questions and ushers in numerous possibilities inside and outside the United States, indeed on the whole international scene.

More Results From Local Council Elections

NC0511203192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Minister of Local Administration Dr. Mahmud Sharif held a news conference this evening to provide a full picture of the outcome of the popular local council elections.

Dr. Sharif announced that the National Democratic Party [NDP] received 100 percent of the votes in al-Qalyubiyah, al-Fayyum, al- Wadi al-Jadid, al-Bahr al-Ahmar, Shamal Sina, and Janub Sina governorates; 98.15 percent in Asyut; 97.9 percent in Suhaj; 97.4 percent in Aswan; 94.2 percent in Qina; 94.7 percent in al-Sharqiyah; 93.3 percent in Cairo; 91.3 percent in Ismailia; 87.5 percent in al-Suways; 81.2 percent in al-Gharbiyah; 72.2 percent in al-Minufiyah; and 50 percent in Port Said.

Dr. Sharif said that a runoff election has been declared on 159 tickets and 223 individual seats in 5 governorates, in addition to Misr al-Qadimah Constituency in Cairo Governorate, where a court ruling has been issued accepting the NDP ticket.

He added that the governorates in which runoff elections will be held on 10 November are Dumyat, al-Minufiyah, al-Gharbiyah, Bani Suwayf, and Kafr al-Shaykh.

He noted that the popular local council's next session will begin on 19 November and that all judicial orders concerning the electoral process have been honored and implemented.

Al-Jizah Results Announced

NC0511180092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] The final results of the popular local council elections in the rest of al-Jizah Governorate villages were announced today.

The National Democratic Party [NDP] won 10 of the 14 electoral tickets in the governorate. The Labor Party won four tickets. The NDP won 10 seats, four independent candidates won seats, and the Wafd Party won one seat.

As for other districts, neighborhoods, and villages, the NDP won in every constituency.

Qina Results Detailed

NC0511142192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Nov 92

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The local council elections for individual seats in Qina Governorate resulted in 84 National Democratic Party [NDP] candidates who won uncontested, 39 candidates who won through balloting, 18 independent candidates, and five Wafd Party candidates.

On the tickets level, the NDP won 124 tickets; the Wafd Party, 21 tickets; the Labor Party, six tickets; and the Liberal Party, four tickets out of a total of 155 tickets.

With regard to the 66 tickets on the village level, 50 NDP tickets were won uncontested, five NDP tickets were won by balloting, and the Wafd Party won three tickets. Concerning the 13 tickets on the city level, the NDP won 13 tickets uncontested and two by balloting, and the Wafd Party won only one ticket.

The committees in charge of vote counting have not yet announced the election results in Qus District.

DFLP's Hawatimah Invited To Visit Cairo

NC0611082992 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Nov 92 p 17

[Excerpt] Nayif Hawatimah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] leader, told ROSE AL-YUSUF that he recently received an invitation to visit Cairo, which observers believe to be the first visit by a Palestinian opposition figure since the start of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Hawatimah is leading the call for withdrawal from or suspension of the peace talks until negotiating conditions are improved. Sources believe that this invitation is an attempt to bring the views of the PLO and the 10 Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups closer together in a way that would convince all Palestinians to support their negotiating team and give it more confidence and strength. [passage omitted]

Agriculture Minister Rejects Sharing Nile Waters

NC0611094392 Cairo MENA in English 0730 GMT 6 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Egypt is not prepared to allow any of its neighbors to share in the water of the River Nile, AL-AKHBAR quoted Dr. Yusuf Wali as saying, in its top billing and leading front-page story.

The deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation was speaking at a rally in al-Mansurah during a visit he paid to al-Daqahliyah Governorate together with Minister of Awqaf Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub.

Wali, who is also secretary general to the ruling majority National Democratic Party [NDP], declared that Egypt would reclaim 50,000 feddans of land per annum to absorb graduates, AL-AKHBAR also reported. [passage omitted]

According to AL-AHRAM headlines, Wali declared at the rally that the NDP was considering the introduction of new articles in the law on housing to provide for punishment of violators of the law.

Egypt did not punish peoples and would furnish Sudan with 1400 tons of maize seeds for planting them in Sudanese soil. Wali was speaking at the rally about Egypt's attitude towards the Sudan and pointed out that maize seeds were shipped to Sudan to enable more than one million feddans of land in Sudan to be planted next year, in compliance with directives of President Husni Mubarak. Wali further declared that Egypt had sent Sudan wheat seeds to enable it to double its wheat crop, the paper said.

The minister of agriculture declared that Egypt would not allow any other country to share in the water of the Nile River together with the nine riparian states, the paper said. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Taya Congratulates President-Elect Clinton

AB0511210092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Message from President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to President-Elect Bill Clinton—read by announcer]

[Text] Your brilliant election to the highest office in your country gives me the opportunity to send you, on behalf of the Mauritanian people, their government, and myself, my warmest congratulations as well as my best wishes for success during the exalting and noble mission entrusted to you by the American people. I would also like to express our best wishes for good health and personal happiness for your excellency, and (?progress) and prosperity for your country. I am convinced that during your tenure, the bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between our two countries will be strengthened and will develop in the best interest of our two nations.

With my best regards,

Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya

Gambian Minister Delivers Jawara Message to Taya

AB0211092692 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 31 Oct 92

[Text] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya this afternoon received Lamin Kiti Jabang, Gambian interior minister and acting foreign minister, who bore a message to him from Gambian President Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara. After the audience, which took place in the presence of Ismail Ould Yahi, minister of contacts and relations with parliament and acting foreign minister, Lamin Kiti Jabang said that he delivered a message to President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya from his brother and friend, President Dawda Kairaba Jawara. He explained that the message concerns regular consultations between the two presidents on issues of common interest.

It is worth noting that Lamin Kiti Jabang left Nouakchott this afternoon. He was seen off by Ismail Ould Yahi, minister of contacts and relations with parliament, acting for the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Sudan

Officials Comment on Clinton Election Victory

Al-Bashir Congratulates Clinton

EA0511100592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] General 'Umar al-Bashir has congratulated the President Bill Clinton on the occasion of his election to the presidency of the USA. In cable he sent Wednesday [4 November] to President Clinton, [Bashir] hoped that the relations between the Sudan and the USA would tangibly develop during the presidency of Clinton for the interest of the peoples of the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and understanding.

Meanwhile, the RCC chairman commented on the defeat of George Bush, saying the defeat denoted failure of his foreign policy, adding that Bush's period witnessed domination of the USA on the world, collapse of the Soviet Union, and imposition of the new world order.

He added that the USA, despite domination in the Gulf following the recent war, ignored tackling its own internal affairs [which were] the concern of the American citizen.

Chairman Hopes For 'New Leaf'

EA0411211692 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has affirmed that the harvest operation this year is characterized by [word indistinct] biggest harvest operation in the biggest cultivated area. [passage omitted] Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added during his regular meeting today with the leaders of the media and information organs that the average expected production for one feddan totals 10 sacks [as heard]. [passage omitted]

On the American elections and the demise of George Bush, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said this means the demise of U.S. foreign policy and a victory for the advocates of concern for domestic policy. His excellency declared that the Sudan will turn over a new leaf and initiate good relations with the new American Administration. He expressed his hope that the change would be in the interests of world (?peace) and security and promote a spirit of (?tranquility) in the world. He said he hoped that the new American Administration would open up a new chapter in its relations with the world.

Foreign Minister Comments

EA0511222592 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Nov (SUNA)—Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the foreign minister, has explained that the American people have specified their stand toward the policies that were adopted by George Bush and (?which were represented) by the departure from dealing with internal problems, a matter that led to economic recession and a rise in the rates of unemployment and a deterioration in the level of real incomes for the middle classes.

His excellency said in a press statement to SUNA, commenting on the results of the American elections, that Bush strove to concentrate his efforts on foreign relations to establish a new world order based on trusteeship over Third World states, subjecting them to values and criteria that are incompatible with their heritage and interests.

His excellency pointed out that the foreign policy of the new American administration is not expected to take shape yet (?particularly as) President-Elect Clinton will not assume the reins of power until 20 January. He said that (?commenting) on the foreign policy of the new American administration and its orientations now would be mere interference.

Government Orders Closure of Yugoslav Embassy

EA0411153592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA)—The Sudanese Foreign Ministry has notified Yugoslav charge d'affaires here to inform his country's government to close down the Yugoslav Embassy in Khartoum within two weeks in the light of the decision of the Government of Sudan to close down its embassy in Belgrade, the capital of the previously known as Yugoslavia. [sentence as received]

The decision come as a protest against the killing and displacement which Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina are exposed to.

Minister on 'Detente' With Egypt

NC0511202692 Cairo MENA in English 1846 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Amman, 5 Nov (MENA)—Major General al-Zubayr Muhamad Salih Sudanese vice president and interior minister has said that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are witnessing a state of detente and that they will in the near future develop very positively.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the Sudanese official asserted that strong blood relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are capable of eliminating differences in political views.

On the Hala'ib issue he said the subject represented no serious problem and that it would not develop into a border dispute between the two countries.

He blamed mass media for playing a major role in aggravating the issue.

On inter-Arab relations he called for turning a new leaf and bypassing differences specially that the climate was now propitious for such relations to be back to normal.

Al-Bashir Talks With Arab League Official

EA0311125592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir met in his office at the Friendship Hall [on] Monday the assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, Mahdi Mustafa al-Hadi. Al-Hadi in a press statement said that the meeting discussed a number of national issues concerning the Arab unity and economic policies as well as Sudan's relations with the Arab League.

'Fierce Battles' Reported Between Rebel Factions

EA0211171292 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Reports are coming in of fierce battles being fought again between opposing rebel factions. A bloody

battle between the John Garang and William Nyuan factions in the Kongor area [70 miles north of Bor] has left 2,000 people dead on both sides.

Eyewitnesses who had arrived in the Waat area [70 miles northwest of Akobo] reported that the hostile factions of the rebel movement had been using heavy and light weapons, and corpses were scattered within and outside the battle area. Garang's forces were said to have pursued citizens who were fleeing from the heat of the battle and killed some of them.

Meanwhile the grounding of the UN aircraft which used to bring in relief supplies from Nairobi has led to a food shortage in the Waat area in Upper Nile. The citizens had described the food distribution as unfair since the rebels kept large quantities of the relief supplies, with what was left going to unarmed citizens.

[In the same cast, it is reported: "Battles are reported to have been fought again in the ranks of the rebel movement in Kajo Kaji during the last two days. Reports say the men of Bahr al-Ghazal in the rebel movement have been waging ferocious battles against the rebel John Garang's forces. This has led to the death of many people. The reports say that the rebel William Nyuan had escalated his military operations against Garang and seized a camp near Kajo Kaji. He has killed 150 rebels. The wounded numbered 500."]

Presence of Fundamentalists' Camps Denied

JN0611113792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 19

[Interview with Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese deputy prime minister and interior minister, by Sa'd al-Silawi in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Silawi] Some circles speak about a coup attempt and that there is a repressive campaign in Sudan. What is your comment?

[Salih] This is untrue. Since the outbreak of this revolution, there has been purity and straightness. Resorting to this honorable and honest work was what liberated the Sudanese citizens and changed them from being oppressed, dependent, not free to a people who freely decide their future and who are self-dependent as the world witnesses now. This has led to substantial results such as self-sufficiency in sugar, corn, and wheat and a surplus of these products. All this can be evidence of stability in Sudan. He who speaks about instability and a coup attempt in Sudan is doing so for objectives that we know, praise be to God. The leadership and President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir enjoy the outright allegiance of citizens all over Sudan. He travels freely in Sudan. We have never seen a president who tours his country unguarded as al-Bashir does. This is evidence of Sudan's stability, and that there is noting that destabilizes security there. All such reports are usually denied within two days by the same sources that spread them. [passage omitted]

[Al-Silawi] Circles speak about camps for training fundamentalists in Sudan. What is your opinion?

[Salih] Praise be to God that Sudan is the country of all Arabs. Any Arab citizen is free to enter Sudan without a visa. In my capacity as interior minister, I deny the presence of camps for training fundamentalists in my country. All our brothers who visited us during conferences and popular and official meetings have toured Sudan. They were allowed to see everything, but there are quarters that do not like the idea of stability in Sudan or Sudan's free decisionmaking and independence. These quarters can fabricate anything. We do not have camps for training fundamentalists. What do they mean by fundamentalism, and is fundamentalism an insult?

[Al-Silawi] Do you believe that the Sudanese model is being targeted?

[Salih] Yes, we feel that we are being targeted. At the same time we are seeking to show the shining aspects of Sudan. It is enough for us to say that Sudan has changed from a country that was begging to a country that realized self-sufficiency. Several parties have disappeared—parties which we are fully certain have links with foreign quarters that do not want good for Sudan. When we came to power, there was nothing—no sugar, no oil, and no food. Praise be to God, now we have succeeded in meeting all needs through amity, honesty, and self-sufficiency. Why do some people fear us? We do not export terrorism to the world. We have a system, a faith, and morals that we can export to the world. We have good deeds that we carry out in our country.

[Al-Silawi] In view of your good relations with Iran, is there a role for you to play in the islands dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates?

[Salih] We have good relations with Iran. When we find an access to handle this dispute, we will represent the whole Arab nation in dealing with this issue. [passage omitted]

New Appointments in Transitional Assembly

EA0311130992 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree relieving Mr. Muhammad Nasr al-Din Ahmad 'Abdallah of his duty as secretary general of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] but retaining his membership in the assembly.

His Excellency also issued a decree appointing Dr. Jalal Muhammad Ahmad member and secretary general of the TNA with the rank of chairman of a permanent committee in the TNA.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir also issued a decree transferring Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Salim, judge of the court of appeal,

to the TNA and appointing him legal adviser to the TNA with the rank of chairman of a permanent committee in the TNA.

Tunisia

President Asks Clinton To Help Negotiate Peace

LD0411183892 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Nov 92

["Text" of telegram from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton]

[Text] Mr. President, I am pleased to convey to you, on behalf of the government and people of Tunisia and myself, warmest congratulations on your election to the U.S. Presidency.

The confidence which the American people have placed in you through the ballot box proves their belief in your distinguished ability to shoulder the leadership of the American people, who are looking forward to the prospects of a better future heralded by your presidency.

I am convinced that the firm, friendly relations between Tunisia and the United States will continue to develop for the good of our two peoples, and that the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights in which we both believe will be enhanced.

We also look forward to working with you and your administration toward just and lasting peace in numerous worldwide conflicts—particularly the Middle East—to ease the suffering of the innocent and establish justice, security, and solidarity among nations.

Please accept my highest esteem.

Ben Ali Receives Greek Foreign Minister

LD3110225892 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 92

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning received at Carthage Palace Mr. Michalis Papakonstantinou, the Greek minister of foreign affairs, in the presence of Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, the minister of foreign affairs, and ambassadors of the two countries.

Following the audience, the Greek minister announced that he had the chance to talk with his excellency the president on issues of interest for both countries, as well as countries of the European Community and the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. He pointed out that a bridge could be built between these two blocs through Greece and Tunisia, who, early in the new year, will take over the Presidency of the AMU.

He added that the talks also covered some topics already discussed by the joint Tunisian-Greek cooperation committee, currently meeting in Tunis, which will crown its proceedings by signing three accords in the fields of avoiding double taxation, air transport, and investment protection.

The Greek minister of foreign affairs pointed out that other bilateral agreements would soon be concluded between the two countries, which would pave the legal grounds that would allow the two countries to establish cooperation in the field of partnership. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD3110231192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Oct 92

[Excerpts] The grand Tunisian-Greek mixed commission ended its meetings today. Tunisia and Greece signed cooperation documents manifested in two agreements on mutual guarantees for investment and prevention of dual taxation and an agreement on air transport. [passage omitted]

The foreign ministers of Greece and Tunisia also signed the minutes of the session of the mixed commission. The minutes state that the two sides agreed to endorse a cooperation program for the coming years, which particularly includes the setting up of a mixed commission to follow up cooperation. This commission will meet once every six months; emphasis is on the formation of a think-tank regarding Tunisia's relations with the European Community, the abolishment of visas regarding Tunisian diplomatic and private passports, and the setting up of a cooperation committee in the field of social security.

Ben Ali Receives Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister

LD3010225892 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Oct 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at Carthage Palace received Hakija Turajlic, the deputy prime minister of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Government and personal envoy of President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, to the president.

Following the meeting, which was attended by Mohamed al-Jari, the minister and director of the presidential office, and by the representative of Bosnia-Hercegovina in Tunis, the personal envoy made a statement in which he said that a great honor was bestowed on him by meeting the president of the republic and that he was happy to visit Tunisia.

He said that he conveyed a message from the Bosnian president explaining the situation in his country and the viewpoint of his government in finding a solution which satisfies all sides.

The personal envoy said: We have asked President Ben Ali to continue his help and support for us in finding a solution to the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina within the framework of the UN and at the level of international and regional organizations.

A statement released today by the Foreign Affairs Ministry stated that the governments of the Tunisian Republic and the Bosnia-Hercegovina Republic, out of their desire to promote relations of friendship and develop cooperation that is beneficial to both sides in all fields, have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of the date of this statement.

The statement, which was issued following the visit of the deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina, pointed out that establishing these diplomatic relations has come as a result of the Tunisian Government's decision, dated 25 April 1992, to recognize the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The statement explained that establishing diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Bosnia- Hercegovina responds to the interests of the two countries and contributes to strengthening international cooperation and peace and security in the world.

Ben Ali Discusses African Human Rights

LD0211194492 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Speech by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at opening of Preparatory African Regional Conference to the International Conference on Human Rights, in Palace of Carthage in Tunis on 2 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen. Tunisia, which will be celebrating in a few days time the fifth anniversary of the 7 November Change, welcomes you all and cherishes your participation in this African international conference on human rights which is taking place on Tunisia's territory, thereby increasing its pride and the joy of its celebrations, particularly as we have made human rights a basic pillar of the civilized society which we are building day by day and placed them in the forefront of the political constants and the values on which we founded our method of government. [passage omitted]

Tunisia, which was among the first countries to endorse the documents on human rights, urges the member countries, out of its adherence to the gains made by the international community in this regard, to proceed forward in endorsing the international conventions and agreements and to incorporate them in their internal legislation. [passage omitted]

We take this oppportunity to salute the current experience-rich stage through which our African continent is passing in democratic and social changes. These experiments deserve all support from the international community so as to bring forward their positive character and thus enable them to overcome the difficulties which face them here and there particularly, as our continent still suffers from poverty, starvation, and disease and our societies still hold some seeds of division and racial and religious fanaticism. These phenomena might find in the democratic changes outlets for emergence and growth and become, if left to grow, the biggest threat to the democratic climate in which they emerged.

While we salute the efforts being made by states—peoples and governments, and the distinguished role being played by the United Nations and regional organizations with their various establishments, and are committed to the mechanics and texts which express [words indistinct] of the international community, we salute non-governmental organizations—international, African and local—since they are a fundamental source of support for many for these noble humanitarian actions. [passage omitted]

We appreciate the theory that takes respect for human rights as one of the most important criteria for dealings among the various countries. We believe that it is the vital and indeed realistic duty of the advocators of this theory to rush to help our countries which are on the road to development to enable them to create the appropriate climate and the necessary conditions for the preservation of human rights.

Perhaps one of the most important of these conditions is the prevalence of a minimum level of conditions for the peoples of the developing countries—who suffered long from imperialism, which was followed after independence by political conditions that were not democratic and under which human rights did not enjoy the necessary importance they deserved. [passage omitted]

We believe that any support from the advanced countries to the countries of the Third World constitutes in essence a bolstering for democracy and human rights, since these are matters that transcend national borders. [passage omitted]

Since the start of the 7 November Change, we declared that there can be no democracy without development and that there can be no development without democracy. They are Siamese twins that cannot be separated, nor can one be given priority over the other.

We have translated this into action in everything we have done and all the decisions and measures we have adopted. We have ensured the participation of all the energies of our society in this operation and thus we have honored women, as no human rights in any society can be complete when women are considered inferior to men. [passage omitted]

We created institutions and laid down the necessary mechanisms to support and implement them in practice. We care for all the poor classes in society, so that the train of change does not leave behind it people on the margin, out of our belief that each person in our society, whoever he may be, is first and foremost a citizen enjoying all rights and duties.

Ladies and gentlemen: Africa is embarking on a new future; a future in which we seek to respond to our aspirations regarding prosperity and democracy and the establishment of human rights. These aspirations can be achieved only through the deployment of daily common

efforts by everybody, long-term action, and conscientious practice of human rights national virtues. [passage omitted]

There will be no democracy or human rights if one opens the door to or neglects terrorism, violence, and religious, ethnic, and cultural practices which use human rights as a pretext for emergence and expansion and provide society with a closed plan that rejects the idea of differences and openness in the name of (?uniqueness) and originality. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen: Education in the field of human rights is the most important future guarantee and the best means for deepening awareness of human rights. Such education should be integrated into the daily behavior of the citizen. The role of the governments, establishments, and the international non-governmental organizations, as well as the various sides of the civilian society, is also essential. For this consideration Tunisia opened its gates to play host to many of these establishments and organizations. [passage omitted]

Proceeding from our commitment to maintaining human rights as an indivisible whole, irrespective of a person's creed, nationality, identity, and culture, we would like to express our profound indignation over the homelessness and annihilation, to which the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina are being subjected. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Heir Apparent Notes Saudi Strategic Role in GCC

PM0311151492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Hamad Bin-'Isa: Solution Is Adherence to Constants, First and Foremost Saudi Arabia's Strategic Role"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In Manama, Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain's Defense Force, said that "whatever the situation with regard to border questions, there are strategic constants in the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] march which not be ignored or harmed, first and foremost the major strategic role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, in strengthening the march of security, stability, and prosperity in the region."

Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa was answering a question put by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the possibility of convening a meeting for the GCC leaders or the ministerial council to discuss the border problems which have started to emerge in the region in a dangerous way that threatens its security and stability. On the Saudi-Qatari and Bahraini-Qatari disputes he said: "Bahrain has in similar cases in the past always emphasized the need for the GCC states to draw up a complete view for solutions which should be followed to resolve all border disputes among the member states. That is within the framework of joint understanding among the parties concerned and in line with the aspirations of the peoples of the GCC states for the sake of their brotherly coexistence and positive cooperation in order to achieve their common objectives in terms of security and prosperity and to avert any escalation or any foreign interference in their affairs and destiny."

He added: "As for the Saudi-Qatari dispute, it should be resolved in accordance with the 1965 agreement signed between the two countries. As for Bahrain and its dispute with Qatar, they jointly referred the issue to the International Court of Justice under a special agreement in accordance with the joint understanding principle in order to avoid separate procedures which we do not encourage, whether with regard to us or the region's states in general. But whatever the situation with regard to border disputes, there are strategic constants in the GCC's march which should not be ignored or harmed. The most important of these constants is the major strategic role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in strengthening the march of security, stability, and prosperity in the region."

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'ad Congratulates Clinton, Gore

LD0511135092 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah has sent a message of congratulations to U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton on the occasion of his election as President of the United States. In the message, Shaykh Sa'ad conveyed to his excellency his good wishes for success in his great responsibilities, and stressed his confidence that the relations of cooperation and the strong friendship existing between the United States and Kuwait will continue to develop, gain strength, and be more deeply rooted in the future so as to serve the common objectives and interests of the two friendly countries.

Shaykh Sa'ad also sent a similar message of congratulations to Vice President-Elect Albert Gore on the occasion of his election as Vice President of the United States.

Clinton Win Seen As Change From 'Guns to Butter'

PM0611120092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 1

[Muhammad al-Rumayhi article: "Change Between Butter and Gun"]

[Text] We read in Arabic history books that Caliph Harun al-Rashid used to carry on military expeditions for a year and then rest for a year. And we read in U.S. history books that the change of presidents is conducted in accordance with the famous rivalry between butter and the gun. In the years of war after World War II, including the Korean and Vietnam wars, the American preferred guns to butter. And when President Lyndon Johnson raised the slogan of the great society that combines butter and guns, he lost both. The equilibrium was clear, namely that in the time of war and the defense of national interests there have to be sacrifices. And when Republican President Ronald Reagan proposed the "Star Wars" program to confront the communist "evil empire," the costs were estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars, and despite that, Congress, backed by the U.S. people, agreed to start to implement it, and guns triumphed over butter.

The same happened when President George Bush made his decision to participate in the war to liberate Kuwait. He mobilized his forces and the coalition forces to root out Saddam Husayn's forces from Kuwait. These forces engaged in the "Desert Storm" operation in one of the most just wars... and the U.S. people stood behind their President, applauding his decision and their heroes....

The "evil empire" collapsed, Saddam's claws and teeth were pulled out, the forces returned to their bases, and the guns moved back to their barracks, but "butter" started to mark out the features of the new world order. Japan is not a major military power, nor is unified Germany, and the CIS, which inherited the "evil empire," chose butter even if this led to the collapse of the empire.

Under these world changes Governor Bill Clinton entered the race for the White House under the slogan of "change." This change was not a movie slogan made in Hollywood. It carried realistic concepts with which candidate Bill Clinton toured the entire United States. The most notable of them is the Democratic Party's affirmation that it would reduce armament expenditure. Clinton said "we can and must substantially reduce our military forces and military expenditure because the Soviet threat is declining, and our allies are capable of shouldering a bigger share of the defense burden, and they should do so." The Democratic Party also emphasized in its election program that "the only means to lay the foundation for a new U.S. prosperity is to reactivate public and private investment... we will set the 'future budget' for investments that will make us richer." That was the first issue, and Clinton promised to reduce the defense budget by sums as high as $170 billion. As for the second issue, it was—according to the party's program—that "we will recover the privileges conceded to Japan and Germany, which are investing in new technologies at higher rates than the United States." Then Clinton entered the "empire of butter." Answering a question about helping the poor, he said: "If you want to help the poor with tax money, there must be people who earn money in order to pay tax."

The United States chose "change" from guns to butter and from Star Wars to military spending cuts. It chose the man who did not fight in a war and who refused to take part in the Vietnam war. This economic aspect of change entails social aspects and major transformations. It is no coincidence that on the day Clinton was elected president six women were elected to the Senate for the first time. This is in addition to 49 women elected to the House of Representatives, together with 11 representatives of African origin, six representatives of Latin American origin, and two American Arabs. And an American of Indian origin was elected to the Senate. The United States which today prefers guns to butter [as published] is the United States which prefers the woman to the general and the rich to the strong and abolishes discrimination between races so that all will participate in making butter and... the great society.

Memo Signed With Iran on Marine Transportation

LD0411221592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1522 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwait and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding in the area of marine transportation. The memorandum was signed for the Kuwaiti side by Habib Jawar Hayat, communications minister and minister of state for housing affairs, and for the Iranian side by Roads and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia. [passage omitted]

The memorandum of understanding signed by the two sides included the discussion of matters related to marine transportation, combating sea piracy, application of the International Law of the Sea treaty, reception of ships, coordination in order to combat pollution, and the conduct of search and rescue operations.

The memorandum also included a study of the operation of ferries to transport commercial trucks and tourist coaches between the two countries, the exchange of information between the two sides on departing ships, and acceleration of the establishment of information centers.

Chief of Staff Interviewed on Iraqi Threat

PM0611154592 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 31

[Interview with Kuwaiti Chief of Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] From a military viewpoint, do you believe that Iraq still poses a threat to Kuwait after it has lost most of its Armed Forces and after the elimination of its mass destruction weapons?

[Al-Sabah] First of all we should differentiate between Iraq as a neighboring state and the Iraqi regime. If Iraq is represented by the Iraqi leaders from the time of 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim right down to Saddam Husayn, then I leave the answer to you. We never expected to be rewarded in such a way for what we had offered to Iraq. We are not alone in this situation: Egypt, which Baghdad sought to move out of the Arab world, was the first to support Iraq in its predicament in an attempt by Cairo to "tidy" the Arab situation. The Egyptian position was strong in supporting Iraq during the eight-year war. And everyone followed its position. Who could have believed that after the Arab position on the Iraq-Iran war the compass would swing 180 degrees? How spiteful. What crime did Kuwait commit to suffer what it suffered at the hands of Iraq? [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] In view of the continued Iraqi threat, has Kuwait secured whatever can protect its security against any invasion attempt?

[Al-Sabah] Belief in God is the first thing. Kuwait was liberated as a result of the prayers of the sincere and honorable. The objective was not only to liberate Kuwait but to stop Arab blood being shed without any justification. We believe that, if the same approach continues in Iraq—if that mentality is Saddam-made—then the threat will continue to exist. Kuwait together with the friends and brothers can constitute a formidable barrier

against any Iraqi ambitions. There can be no parity between Iraq's capabilities and Kuwait's capability. We can resist on our own, but for how long? I hope after that regime's elimination, God willing, that the lesson will have been absorbed—that is, if there are any wise people.

['Ajjaj] Do you believe that the security fence which Kuwaiti is building is one of the means designed to protect Kuwait against Iraq, or is it a political action?

[Al-Sabah] Oh God, we grew up singing songs about, and poets wrote about, the one Arab homeland, and here we are seeking to set up fences. What a shame! In Kuwait's conception the security fence is designed to prevent spying on Kuwait and to ensure that legitimate means are used to enter the country. We realize that fences no longer protect anyone. The Egyptians proved that when they destroyed the Bar-Lev line in the October war. And the Germans did the same before that with regard to the Maginot line. There is no military barrier. The most recent incident is the collapse of the defense line set up by the tyrant in the war to liberate Kuwait. We cannot build fences and then rest. The fence is designed to prevent infiltration into Kuwait.

['Ajjaj] Do you believe that the region is exposed in one way or another to non-Arab threats? There is the dispute between the Emirates and Iran over Abu Musa island.

[Al-Sabah] We hope that there will be no threat and that there will be an understanding on the islands and other border problems. We hope they will be resolved through logic and reason. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] There was recently a clamor about the 3.5-billion-dinar deal on rebuilding the Kuwaiti Armed Forces and the strong competition between London and Washington. Are there further details about this deal?

[Al-Sabah] Our responsibility as the Armed Forces is to plan and build. There are other quarters which do the choosing. We believe that, in view of the desire to rebuild the Army, matters will not be confined to armament. It will include the soldier and the services provided for him, in order to secure vital quality in terms of personnel. After the huge destruction it has suffered the state has commitments. There should be limits when it comes to spending, and the Armed Forces is part of the state's general plan. This is why that sum was allocated to rebuilding the Armed Forces. We have made big strides with regard to building up the psychological aspect of the Kuwaiti soldier, who suffered an unexpected shock. The invasion was a harsh lesson for us. Our aim and plan is to benefit from advanced world technology to tackle the problem of our limited human resources. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Do you believe that, following the recent Doha meeting, the Damascus declaration has taken any steps toward implementing the security aspect?

[Al-Sabah] Let us be realistic. When we needed Egypt, Syria, and all the friendly states, they all came without any hesitation, without presenting any bills, and without asking any agreements. I do not like to be bound to fraternal states by agreements. We are one family, one home. Protocols and the form of action are discussed between politicians. They draw them up. Nevertheless, I believe that positive steps were taken after the recent Doha meeting. These emerged from the signatory states' statements, but they were not announced openly or clearly.

['Ajjaj] You visited the Gulf states, then Egypt and Syria. Did the visits have anything to do with military or defense coordination?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait is the president of the Gulf Cooperation Council this year. Meetings will be held at the chief of staff level. We are preparing for them, especially as I will chair these meetings. As for my visit to Egypt, it was a private visit, and so was the visit to Syria.

United Arab Emirates

Sharjah To Develop Oil Field Shared With Iran

NC0311134192 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 3 (AFP)—The Gulf Emirate of Sharjah is spending 140 million dollars to develop an oil field it shares with Iran near the disputed island of Abu Musa, the field's operators said on Tuesday.

Crescent Petroleum Company (CPC), controlled by the Sharjah government, said it was spending 140 million dollars to develop Mubarak Field, about 10 kilometres (six miles) from Abu Musa.

"It is an investment programme devoted to Mubarak Field. It began nearly one year ago and will be completed in the fourth quarter of this year," CPC engineering chief, Rahif Katan, told AFP by telephone from Sharjah, one of the seven members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He declined to provide figures on the field's production but oil industry sources in the region estimated it at 15,000 barrels per day, shared equally by Iran and Sharjah.

It is Sharjah's main oil field but it has a large gas potential, which is used in meeting the needs of neighbouring Dubai, a major oil producing emirate but poor in gas.

The CPC development plan included building a 1,500-tonne platform and a 100-kilometre (62 mile) pipeline from Mubarak to Jabal 'Ali Free Zone in Dubai.

The platform, which cost about 32 million dollars, was built by the U.S. construction giant McDermot in Jabal 'Ali and will be tugged to Mubarak in the next two days, CPC sources said.

"It will be installed at the field this month and will begin production in December," one source said. "Its main function is to separate oil from gas, which is supplied to Jabal 'Ali through the pipeline. The oil is stored at the floating tanker near Mubarak and is exported to several states."

Sharjah has little oil but is the second biggest gas producer in the UAE after Abu Dhabi. Last month, it reported the discovery of a major gas field with a production of 73 million cubic feet per day, bringing the Emirate's total gas output to 653 million cubic feet.

Gas reserves in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah are estimated at 5.6 trillion cubic metres.

Mubarak field began production about 10 years ago and it has been shared along with Abu Musa Island itself. But the UAE accused Tehran of violating a 1971 agreement and seizing the remaining part of the island earlier this year.

Saddam Said To Submit Successors' Names To U.S.

NC0611101792 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 Nov 92 p 14

[Fa'izah Sa'd report]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn presented to the U.S. Administration a few days ago a list of four names of important Iraqi figures to succeed him.

These figures have worked for many years with the U.S. Administration, from the start of the Iran-Iraq war, and have won confidence in Washington where they are called the U.S. men in Iraq.

The first man named on the list is Nizar Hamdun, who served as Iraqi ambassador to the United States until 1987. His political career began when he was put in charge of the Ba'th Party's regional command in Syria under Taha Yasin Ramadan. U.S. authorities describe him as the most polite Iraqi official and the one most capable of understanding the U.S. position, but who always faced obstacles due to the Iraqi leadership's intransigence. He was moved to the post of Foreign Ministry under secretary during the Iran-Iraq war and he was appointed Iraq's envoy to the United Nations about two months ago, following a series of contacts with men close to Arkansas Governor Clinton who is now competing with President George Bush in the elections due to be held today [as published].

A number of U.S. grain deals were concluded with the State of Arkansas under Hamdun, who managed to have a dialogue with the state governor. The grain deals were one of the factors in the rise of Clinton's popularity among U.S. farmers. The meeting with Clinton was held through an American businessman who deals with the Iraqi Government and is regarded as one of its advisers through Hamdun. Bill Clinton's wife is this businessman's lawyer.

At the end of the Kuwait-Iraq war, Hamdun entered the Mayo Clinic for an operation. He seized the opportunity to rebuild bridges with his American friends who are regarded as advisers to the Iraqi Government and mediators between the U.S. authorities and Baghdad. They include businessmen, senators, and journalists.

A meeting was held about a month ago between Clinton and Nizar Hamdun in the presence of an Iraqi intelligence officer, who acts as President Saddam Husayn's representative abroad, after opinion polls showed that Bill Clinton might defeat Bush in the elections.

The U.S. businessman met with Nizar Hamdun with the Iraqi president's approval. He promised that Bill Clinton would cooperate fully with Iraq under the new president. It was the same formula that the Bush Administration had reached with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn six months earlier.

In addition to Nizar Hamdun, President Husayn gave the name of Husayn Kamil al-Majid, his son-in-law and the official in charge of Iraqi military production, who dealt with the U.S. Administration throughout the Iran-Iraq war. All the technology imported from the United States, Germany, England, France, and Brazil had to pass through him. He also worked to modernize the Iraqi Army's weapons and develop its equipment.

The third name on the list was that of Tariq 'Aziz, presently the deputy prime minister and before that Iraqi foreign minister for 12 years.

The fourth name was that of 'Abd-al-Latif al-Anbari, Iraq's representative at the United Nations who conducted Iraq's policy there in a reasonable way during the Iraq-Kuwait war.

Daily Says Bush Ordered Attack on Turkish Kurds

JN0511142592 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 5, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily stressed that agents in the Kurdistan region have turned the region into an abode for strangers, apostates, traitors and spies.

In a commentary today the paper said this dear part of the country suffered from acts of terrorism and theft in the absence of law, security and order.

The paper said Bush had, before his defeat, ordered Jalal Talabani to push his followers into fighting Turkish Kurds.

The paper added that day after day further details and realities on the nature of the U.S.-Western-Zionist conspiracy against the Kurds were being exposed.

The paper said Talabani's submission, his blind and shameful obedience contradicted the Kurdish people's morals and characteristics.

Crowds, Press 'Express Joy' at Bush's Defeat

'Spontaneous' Marchers Celebrate

JN0511142192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Iraq's cities were today the scene of crowded spontaneous marches as the masses expressed their happiness over the fall of criminal Bush in the U.S. presidential elections.

The masses expressed their high preparedness for sacrifice in defense of great Iraq. They also stressed resolve to continue their holy jihad in the field of reconstruction until clear victory is scored against the covetous enemies.

The masses reiterated their pledge to remain faithful to the principles of the great 17-30 July Revolution, as well

as the objectives and values of the greatest battle, the Mother of all Battles [Gulf war].

For the second straight day, the streets and squares of Baghdad have been the scene of spontaneous gatherings in which thousands of students, young people, and workers took part to express joy over the fall of criminal Bush.

These gatherings have affirmed that criminal Bush's hatred of Iraq has only increased the Iraqis' determination to continue the march of progress and advancement, and to adhere to their unique leadership.

In Salah ad Din Governorate, thousands of students, young people, and teachers participated in spontaneous gatherings to express their joy over the fall of criminal Bush.

In their chants and songs, the crowds voiced love for and pride in the unique leadership of President Saddam Husayn. They also voiced a high preparedness for sacrifice in defense of Iraq.

The masses of workers, students, and young people in Wasit Governorate affirmed in their gatherings that the schemes on which criminal Bush and his allies wagered only increased the Iraqis' resolve and determination to adhere to their leadership and the genuine principles of their revolution, the glorious 17-30 July Revolution.

During crowded gatherings in the squares and streets of al-'Amarah city, the masses and tribes of Maysan Governorate affirmed that the fall of criminal Bush is the natural end of every evildoer who opposes the hopes and aspirations of peoples and nations for a prosperous future.

Bush's Loss Viewed

JN0611102492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary carried within "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has said that Bush fell the moment he hit Baghdad, and if Bush did not know Iraq and the Arab nation, then others must know them after all the past experiences that must serve as a lesson.

Yes, criminal Bush fell and his evil dreams were shattered. Iraq remained firm, glorious, and defying the tyrants and aggressors. Bush fell, personally and politically, and his hostile intentions toward Iraq and the Arab nation failed. He only reaped disgrace and defeat from his rancorous course.

The Iraqis' spontaneous joy, unleashed the day Bush lost the presidential elections, was not a sort of gloating over the misfortune of Bush, the murderer of children and the criminal of the age. That feeling came to express rejection of the evil, hostile course and to underline the Iraqi people's faith in their principles and rallying around their historic leadership and great symbol, leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Criminal Bush not only committed the crimes of the blockade and the 30-state aggression against the Iraqi people. Up to the last minute before his failure, he wagered on continued hostility toward Iraq and on inflicting further harm against its proud people.

Why does Bush harbor such a dark hatred against Iraq and its leadership? It is because Iraq has rejected the U.S. injustice and tyranny and shouted: No to injustice, no to U.S. hegemony, and no to aggressive Zionist and racist hegemony.

Over the past two years, criminal Bush and his villainous allies did not hesitate in using all ways and means in their failed, recurrent attempts to harm Iraqi steadfastness. The Iraqi people, however, continued their militant march and expressed their steadfastness through work, building, and creativity to break the unjust blockade. They have not abandoned their great principles, and their determination have not crumbled in the face of the attempts to bring them on their knees and the attempts at extortion and aggression. This is how Iraq remained under its wise leadership, sticking to its principles and its independent political course, and maintaining its magnificent edifice and proud and glorious banner. Iraq has remained a lighthouse on the path of struggle, illuminating the path of peoples aspiring for dignity and freedom.

Criminal Bush, meanwhile, failed his first test before the American people and the entire world. Like all tyrants and aggressors throughout history, his failure was a reverberant one. The pictures of criminal Bush are now making their way to the trash cans. His petty agents and subordinates, like Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah, can only feel disappointed and humiliated after having sold themselves in the slave market, abandoned the principles of honor and right, and allied with the U.S. Satan against the mujahid Iraqi people.

Undoubtedly, Bush's failure does not just provide an opportunity to denounce the crimes he committed against Iraq and the Arab nation. The failure of that malicious criminal must also serve as a lesson to his followers and allies, who must learn the lesson and learn that their people can have their say against them and their aggressive political line, just like the American people said no to Bush and his policy and forced him out of the president's office, without any regrets. The only memories he left behind were those of wars and destruction. He only left shame and evil, which will continue to haunt him until his last days.

By God, there is no gloating. Nor is there excessive hope after Bush's failure. The people of Iraq and their leader Saddam Husayn are believers and mujahidin. He who extends a hand of peace and amity to Iraq will have a hand of peace and further amity extended to him. This is how we are, Islam being our religion. These are our Arab

values. This is how our leader's magnanimity, chivalry, ethics, and political line—the line of faith, peace, and right—are.

Papers Sees End of 'U.S. Hegemony'

JN0511211992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH today published an article by Hani Wuhayyib under the headline "Finally, Bush Has Fallen." The article says: We, as well as other political writers and observers, are aware of the sound analysis that has prevailed since the 5 June 1967 defeat, that successive U.S. administrations have adopted a hostile attitude toward the Arab nation and that U.S. decisionmaking is influenced by the Zionist lobby. We are also aware now that the change of U.S. presidents does not mean a change in the substance of the anti-Iraq U.S. policy. However, we say: Finally, Bush has fallen, together with his epoch of crime and persistence in aggression. Despite all the ado, it is no regret that Bush has been sent to his abode in the bin of disgrace. Nothing will remain in people's memory except his barbaric aggression against Iraq and the colossal number of tonnes of fire that he poured on the elderly, children, women, and men of Iraq, and his destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, which has been reconstructed thanks to the resolve of Saddam Husayn, the beloved leader of the Iraqis, and the creative effort of the Iraqi people. Also to be remembered is Bush's plots with meek Gorbachev in the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, which brought disaster to large numbers of people in the world. The fate of such cowardly tyrants is disappearance, while their lousy reputation remains. As Iraqi citizens, our happiness with the removal of Bush is great.

In a dialogue on the U.S. elections moderated by comrade 'Udayy Saddam Husayn appearing in the BABIL newspaper, I indicated that for us, as Iraqis, it is a psychological and humanitarian question, although we reiterate that we do not gloat over anyone's misfortune. However, Bush's brazenness and hostile attitude toward human principles and the values of God, Islam, and all religions, make him join the criminals who will receive the curse of history.

Hence, for the past the six months, we at the newspaper AL- QADISIYAH have been expecting the fall of Bush and the victory of Clinton. This was based on very accurate daily follow-ups of news reports and developments in the U.S. election campaign. This was based on rational calculations, which have not been isolated from psychological and spiritual considerations, as well as the profound faith in our inevitable victory over our enemies. In that, we have avoided typically cold calculations and known cliches.

At any rate, the proud Iraqis are marching along the path of glory, before and after the fall of Bush, relying on the legitimacy of their cause and through their relentless effort. They are forging ahead with the reconstruction drive, having foiled many chapters of conspiracy against them. And here is leader Saddam Husayn gracing with his long figure the plains of Iraq in al-Najaf, Samarra', al-Qurnah, al-Anbar, and Diyala, with crowds of Iraqi people flocking from all places to rally around him to declare the most splendid signs of allegiance for their historic leader and symbol, and to manifest the most beautiful images of oneness with his unique leadership. Together with Bush, the moves and dreams of Bush's ravens have withdrawn into a dark corner in the history of this accursed criminal.

With the change in U.S. presidents, most accurate analyses indicate that domestic U.S. problems related to economic recession, high rates of inflation, the trade and balance-of-payment deficits, high unemployment rates, and other basic living concerns of the American citizen will prevail. Such concerns must leave their traces on the orientation of the new U.S. Administration after the fall of the most prominent guardian of the new world order and the advocate of U.S. hegemony over the world. However, Iraq's legendary steadfastness in the immortal Mother of Battles has hammered the first nail in the coffin of such hegemony. This is a lesson to be learned. Eventually, only people's free will and yearning for independence, progress, and awakening will prevail. All forms of hegemony, tyranny, and enslavement will be defeated. God is great. Victory is ours.

Regime Shelling of Southern Marshes 'Intensified'

NC0511162092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Excerpt] During the past few days, the large-caliber artillery of dictator Saddam's troops intensified shelling of the southern marshland areas, concentrating on al-'Amarah marshes. Our sources in the south have sent an urgent report saying several artillery battalions heavily bombarded villages and populated areas in the marshland, killing and wounding dozens of civilians, according to a preliminary count. The report mentioned unusual movements and activities by the regime's troops and units stationed in marshland areas, which suggests the regime intends to launch land attacks against marshland inhabitants.

The day before yesterday, the media center published a report on a regime order to 70 percent of its troops in the south to wear civilian clothes to escape the attention of UN observers and guards expected to be present in the south in the coming [words indistinct] orders banning partisan rallies and meetings in villages and countryside far from southern cities for fear of jihad operations by the popular troops. Under the regime's new instructions, no party official should walk alone in daylight. At night, party officials are strictly prohibited from leaving their place of duty. [passage omitted]

'Combat Groups' Retaliate

NC0511143992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1355 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Responding to the malicious criminal acts of the regime, the people's enemy, against our people in the south of the homeland and its constant attempts to drain the marshes, combat groups from our victorious popular troops attacked the regime's engineering effort in [names indistinct] in the rebellious al-'Amarah Governorate. The Saddamite engineering units and military units assigned to protect them sustained heavy casualties in the heroic attack, including over 60 dead or wounded. The mujahidin returned safely to their bases, thank God, having carried out their holy duty successfully.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1030 GMT on 5 November reports: "The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq issued a statement on 4 November stating that Iraqi Armed Forces have been shelling southern Iraq's marshlands over the past few days, martyring dozens of civilians seeking refuge. The statement describes the Iraqi forces' actions in the area as a sign of Baghdad's intention to stage another extensive offensive in the area."]

Barzani Interviewed on Planned 'Government in Exile'

PM0511143092 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 3 Nov 92 p14

[Interview with Ma'sud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan-Iraq [DPK], by Mirella Galletti in Salah ad Din; date not given]

[Excerpt] Salah ad Din (Kurdistan)—[passage omitted] [Galletti] According to certain rumors, the Iraqi opposition intends to form a government in exile.

[Barzani] We are working on the formation of a body representing the national assembly of the whole of Iraq and of Kurdistan: an executive council, therefore, not a government. In meetings over the last few weeks with Shiites, Sunnites, Turkmens, and Assyrians it emerged that we wish to maintain the unity of the state and build a democratic, parliamentary, and multiparty federation capable of strengthening rather than splitting Iraq. A federation such as there is in Germany, Switzerland, the United States.

As Kurds, we ask for self-determination, recognition of our rights, but inside Iraq. They must allow us the right to decide what sort of relationship we want between us and the central government. At the last meeting of the whole opposition, before the summit, we addressed this problem. But since our parliament had not yet decided on this matter, neither I nor Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan—PUK] had the authority to ask for a federation. The problem is the responsibility of parliament, which made a decision a few days ago: The decision is to stay in Iraq and keep it united.

[Galletti] But you have 50 percent of the seats and so you can influence parliament's choices.

[Barzani] This is a widespread but mistaken opinion. Talabani and I cannot go into parliament and tell the members what to do. We would often like to achieve certain aims, while the members of parliament choose something completely different.

We want to build democracy in our country. We consider parliament to be a holy place. It is the first time in our history that we have a parliament and a government. Jalal Talabani and I call ourselves soldiers of parliament, and they appreciate this service we offer. They have the right to reject our indications. They can accept my suggestions or not, but I cannot give orders.

[Galletti] But do you think that if the Shiites get into power, they will wield it any better than Saddam?

[Barzani] We have good relations with the Shiites, but Iraq must not be in the hands of a single group. Power must not be wielded by Sunnites or Shiites or anyone else. They must all be capable of governing the country together. There must be a parliament elected by the people.

[Galletti] Relations with Talabani seem to be based on maximum cooperation.

[Barzani] There are no problems between us. Following the merger of the Peshmerga militias (Kurdish fighters—AVANTI editor's note), perhaps we shall merge the organizations of the two parties. It is not certain, but we are thinking about it. We must consult the people.

[Galletti] The atmosphere in the region is very democratic.

[Barzani] People can say what they like, even against me. Members of parliament, for instance, sometimes vote against our decisions; some from the DPK vote with the PUK and vice versa. There are only two things we do not allow: spying and terrorism in our territory.

[Galletti] At the time of the first negotiation meeting with Saddam on 18 April 1991, why did you not go to Baghdad? Would it have been appropriate to open up to Saddam?

[Barzani] The Iraqi Kurdistan front decided that the Kurdish delegation was to be led by Talabani, with Nashirwan [Barzani] taking part as the representative of DPK-Iraq. The decision whether to attend the meeting or not was not made either by myself or Talabani. It was necessary to stay here in order to understand what was happening in Kurdistan. At that time negotiation was the only correct decision. And the future Iraq that was the correct decision [as published]. The alternative to negotiation was to turn into a nation of refugees, out of our country. We must die in Iraq. I accept the struggle to the death but not to be a refugee abroad.

Shiite Statement on Opposition Conference Criticized

NC0411141692 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Unattributed talk entitled: "Our Position Toward Some Opposition Factions"]

[Text] Dear listener: All the Islamic Shiite parties participated in the recent Iraqi opposition conference in Salah ad Din. In a genuine democratic climate, the participants discussed the situation in Iraq and ways to overthrow the dictatorship. A National Council, Executive Council, and three-man Presidency were elected. One of the three members of the Presidency is a Kurd, Mas'ud Barzani, another is a Sunni Arab, Brigadier Hasan al-Naqib, and the third is a Shiite Arab, Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum.

All aspects of the conference's method of action were discussed and committees were set up to prepare the agenda and the special reports for the conference. Everyone without exception approved the final statement, considering it a victory not only for the opposition and the Iraqi people, but for all virtuous forces in the region.

It would appear, however, that some Islamic sides cannot vote, act, or issue statements without consulting the states that host them. It is strange that Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], should contest the statement before its ink dries. From Tehran, he attacked the statement as soon as he heard it on radio and before the SAIRI delegation to the conference returned.

Al-Hakim did not attend the conference and we do not know why. Leaders of the secular parties, nationalist Iraqi figures, and Kurdish party leaders did attend. Over 200 Iraqi figures participated in the discussions, formulating a unified position acceptable to all.

A SAIRI delegation led by al-Haydari participated in the conference. We do not know why SAIRI issued a statement about what it called little Shiite representation in the Presidency. Does this mean contradiction between word and deed? Was the statement published under pressure from Iran? Or does the SAIRI leadership not trust al-Haydari, who represented the movement in the conference?

Everyone knows the Shiites in Iraq are persecuted and that the oppressed Shiite groups started the popular uprising. The Shiites suffered major losses, but all the Iraqis participated in the uprising; al-Ramadi was the only governorate that failed to join in. The Iraqis, from Zakho to al-Faw, rebelled against the regime and, had the uprising leadership not been weak, the dictatorship and its bloody regime would have been overthrown.

Perhaps the leadership of the Islamic parties should admit that it bears most of the responsibility for this failure. It announced its subservience to regional countries and committed some wrongs, indicating, above all, that it is immature and lacks the freedom for independent action, struggle, and jihad in isolation from the policy of a neighboring country.

The SAIRI statement harms SAIRI alone. It removes the movement from the collective decision, entailing grave damage.

The field of work and jihad is open to everybody. Those who sluggishly linger for any excuse will hurt only themselves. The Iraqis today need collective work, not views and interpretations that lead them nowhere. Once the dictatorship is overthrown, the Iraqi people will make their decision. The majority will decide and there will be no place for despotism, dictatorship, or unilateral opinion.

Saddam Husayn Visits Mosul

JN0611092192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Umm al-Rabi'ayn, al-Mawsil al-Hadba' [both old names of Mosul], inheritor of the deep-rooted glory of Assyria; the metropolis of Sayf-al-Dawlah, al-Mutanabbi, and Abu-Firas [consecutively, ruler and two well-known poets from the Abbasid era]; and the first governorate in the Iraq of jihad and struggle, today bloomed as its masses, all the masses, left their factories and fields, their neighborhoods and villages, and their colleges and schools to receive the leader of all, the beloved of all, and the cutting sword of Arabism in the contemporary time and its guide on the path of jihad, leader Saddam Husayn.

His excellency the leader looked down for a long time to greet the masses and to exchange with them pledges, amity, and loyalty. The voice of right, the voice of the people in that governorate, kept roaring Long Live Saddam Husayn and Iraq and pouring curses on the wicked colonialists and Zionists, on those who led them in the aggression against Iraq, on those who lead them now to besiege Iraq, and on the agents and servants of these villains.

As leader President Saddam Husayn was standing on the balcony of the Governorate Hall, and as the masses were raising their shouts sky high, the ravens, the aircraft of the failed aggressors, were overflying the area where the Iraqi festivities were taking place. These aircraft were performing known provocative acts, with an increased activity, in an attempt to cover the defeat of Bush, and in another failed attempt to tarnish this festival, lessen this love between the leader and the people, or affect the morale of the mujahid and valiant Iraqi individuals in al-Mawsil al-Hadba'.

Those who have failed in war and aggression as they have failed in the blockade, and those who were defeated and began to fall one after the other; as well as the damned criminal Bush, whose failure in the elections

was more of a scandal than a loss, more of a crushing defeat than a mere downfall, and more of a moral collapse than a political failure—they all failed to know that more than 110,000 raids, with around 88,000 tonnes of explosives, have not caused an eye to flicker in Iraq, nor have they worried even a small child.

Therefore, and despite the enemy aircraft, the leader, smiling, continued to extend a hand of love and care to the masses of our great people. The masses were, meanwhile, raising their hands in defiance. The meeting continued and went on for a long time in further defiance of the failed ones, those who have failed in war, politics, and elections, and of those whose conspiracies, plans, and morals were crushed in the face of the leader's greatness and in the face of the magnificent zeal of the people of Iraq.

During the visit, leader President Saddam Husayn met with a number of clergymen, notables from the governorate and the city, and notables and tribal chiefs from the surrounding villages. His excellency also met with the comrade members of the Ba'th Party branches in Ninawa and Dahuk.

Ninawa Governor 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhannun briefed the leader president on the progress of reconstruction work in the governorate. His excellency instructed that additional funds be allocated for the projects that would improve people's life.

His excellency the leader president was received and seen off by Ninawa Governor 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhannun.

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, also continued his visits to his people to maintain his constant dialogue with them in the effort to build the new Iraq, bolster their steadfastness, and acquaint himself with the citizens' problems and meet their needs.

His excellency, may God protect him, visited Tulul al-Baj area in Ninawa Governorate where he was accorded a warm and cordial welcome at the encampments of the genuine Arabs. The shaykhs, tribal chiefs, and citizens in the area gathered around his excellency to extend salutations to him. The youth in the area danced some traditional bedouin dances from our genuine heritage in front of the president. His excellency discussed with the citizens everything that concerns them and instructed that their essential needs be met. His excellency was then accorded a warm and cordial farewell.

French Civil Servants Inspect Closed Embassy

NC0511221892 Paris AFP in English 2056 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 5 (AFP)—Two French civil servants are visiting Baghdad to inspect the French embassy here which has been closed since the Gulf war, a Russian diplomat reported Thursday.

"It is purely a technical mission," said the Russian, whose country has represented French interests in Iraq since April 1991.

In February 1991, at the height of the Gulf war, Baghdad severed diplomatic links with eight countries, including France, Britain and the United States, which took part in the war to drive its troops from Kuwait.

"There are no political contacts and there is no possibility of change" for the reopening of a French consular section in Baghdad.

He said that "some things" were stolen from the French embassy.

An AFP correspondent meanwhile reported that a "spring-cleaning" operation was underway at the two-storey embassy in central Baghdad as Iraqi security men guarded the entrance to the building.

Efforts Under Way for Early Rabin-Clinton Meeting

TA0511183692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Informed sources in Jerusalem confirmed this evening that arrangements are being made for a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton in the near future, prior to the expected visit by the prime minister to Washington in March. Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor reports that the president-elect's remarks on continuing the current U.S. policy and looking forward to progress in the peace talks were received with satisfaction by Israeli Government circles.

Clinton Presidency's Impact on Talks, Ties Viewed

Rabin: Clinton Backs Peace Process

TA0511200092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that when the peace talks resume in Washington on 9 November Israel will know whether there is a readiness among the Arab delegations to advance or that the U.S. elections are responsible for a delay. In a meeting of Labor's Executive, Yitzhaq Rabin expressed certainty that the new administration in Washington will encourage the peace process in its current form, at least initially.

Clinton Commitments Viewed

TA0511191992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shlomo Ganor on the weekly "Meeting" program; date and place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, Bill Clinton's election did not come as a surprise to Israel. What are our expectations two days after the elections?

[Beilin] We expect the negotiations to continue with full intensity and without pause. I believe a commitment to this effect was made by Clinton's staffers. I was very glad to note that in his speech, he mentioned the Middle East as the first issue of his foreign policy. It is very important to us to ensure that Clinton and his administration-to-be realize that there is a chance, that after many years, an opportunity to reach a peaceful solution in the Middle East has arisen, and I sincerely hope that they will take advantage of this opportunity.

And another thing: Unfortunately or not, there will be no peace in the Middle East without the Americans. This was true during the Camp David process in 1978, and it is true now. The American assistance—behind the scenes and sometimes in the front—is vital, and I sincerely hope, and this is my expectation, that the Americans will be aware of that, that they will be involved. This is vital because, as I said, what we have now is an outstanding opportunity.

[Ganor] Is it feared that the new Clinton administration will renege on the Bush administration's commitments with regard to pursuing the special ties between Israel and the United States and the strategic cooperation?

[Beilin] No, nothing like that is likely to happen. It would go against the new U.S. Administration's interests, and also, it would be inconsistent with history. Traditionally, each new U.S. Administration takes on the commitments of its predecessor, even when they are of different parties. This is the basis of the political U.S. tradition, and therefore, I see no real danger of anything like that happening.

[Ganor] And what about the level of the U.S. aid to Israel? Is it liable to be cut?

[Beilin] I do not think so. I think the aid to Egypt and Israel will be part of the foreign aid that will remain unchanged in the future. This does not mean that we can sit back and relax, or that we should believe it will happen without our involvement, but I believe there is a Clinton commitment to maintain the aid in the future.

[Ganor] Dr. Beilin, the peace talks are due to resume in Washington on 9 November. What will happen to the peace process?

[Beilin] It will be carried on daily, without pause. There will be serious work done morning and night—difficulties and crises notwithstanding—in a bid to arrive at a solution. I was very glad, and even somewhat surprised, to see that an agenda agreement was reached with the Jordanians. There is no reason in the world why an agreement on the agenda—and I am not speaking of a general agreement, merely of one on the agenda—should not be reached with the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese within days or weeks, in order to proceed to the real issue, to substance.

[Ganor] Then there will not be a hiatus until the new administration takes office in January?

[Beilin] Certainly not. We will reconvene on 9 November, and later we will resume the discussions in December. I hope that despite the coming holidays and other things, we will not stop. If we do not stop, and if both sides take a serious attitude, a solution will be found.

[Ganor] The issue of self-determination is one of the Democratic Party's basic tenets. How will this fact affect the Palestinians' demand for a Palestinian state?

[Beilin] Governor Clinton has made a public statement concerning a Palestinian state and his nonsupport for one. The basic concept that every nation has a right to self-determination is anchored in a UN resolution to which Israel is also committed. The question of whether that concept is to be implemented through a Palestinian state or in some other way, such as a Jordanian-Palestinian framework and so forth, will be up for a very serious, very poignant, very tough debate when the permanent arrangement is discussed—but not now, not while we are dealing with the interim arrangement issue.

[Ganor] The possibility that Clinton will appoint a special envoy to the Middle East has been mentioned, and former President Jimmy Carter's name was suggested. Will Israel want a mediator, or will it prefer the existing apparatus? And what is the attitude toward Jimmy Carter as a person?

[Beilin] I do not know whether such a mediator will indeed be appointed. If there is a mediator, and if Carter is appointed, I do not believe any of us will disqualify him. After all, everyone in the Middle East, and in Israel in particular, owes this man, this former U.S. president, a great deal for his successful efforts, which led to peace between us and Egypt.

Daily Sees No Cause To Regret Bush Defeat

TA0611122492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Nov 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Living With Clinton"]

[Text] New York—There are some feelings which are not stated out loud in America. You will neither read about them in newspapers nor hear about them on the radio. Yet the feeling that passed from one Jewish heart to another, like the sound of tom-tom drums in the jungle, was that Bush's downfall was the day of vengeance and retribution. Yitzhaq Rabin has a right to believe that Bush was good for Israel, but the American Jews have not forgiven him his anti-Semitic outbursts, particularly the statement that cast doubt on their loyalty to America and which was designed to destroy their power and influence. I saw many happy Jews on the night of defeat.

Israel, too, has no cause to rue Bush's downfall. His was an administration alienated from Israel; an administration that preferred a dictatorship like Syria because of the potentially higher gains; an administration for which the Syrian annexation of Lebanon was insignificant compared to the Israeli-held territories, which were taken in legitimate wars of survival. Bush did not discontinue the aid to Israel, and after making our lives hell for a while, he even got us the guarantees. But on the political level, he forged a coalition with Arab countries designed to protect the Arab oil sources and completely adopted the Arab stand that Israel must reward the Arab countries for their failure to destroy it by withdrawing to the 1967 borders. To force us to withdraw to the 1967 borders, a victorious Bush—who would not be as apprehensive as a first-term president concerned with getting reelected—would have taken aggressive action, including stopping the aid and loan guarantees. In this sense, we can say: Good riddance.

For the Americans, and for Israel as well, Clinton is an unknown quantity, but I believe the Arab and the Palestinian leaders have more cause for insomnia than do the Israelis—if only because Clinton and his entourage prefer democracies over dictatorships. This gives Israel a one-point head start.

What bothers the Arabs—and should bother us, too—has to do with the assumption that Clinton will dedicate himself to domestic affairs to the detriment of the peace process. Yet this fear is illogical. No President would fail to pursue the efforts to preserve the United States' status as the world's leading superpower. He did not refer to this in his election campaign, but those who know him say that in view of the global changes and the numerous problems, it is inconceivable for his government to be uninvolved in foreign affairs. On the contrary, Clinton, with his dormant complex about being a southern provincial, will want to show involvement in the international arena. And that includes the political process. There has even been talk of the imminent dispatch of James Baker to the region, in coordination with Clinton, to promote the process.

Clinton, however, understands something that Bush failed to grasp: that without economic recovery, the United States will be unable to retain its senior status in the international arena. Israel, which would like to continue receiving military aid and loan guarantees throughout the Clinton era, also has an interest in a strong American economy. President Gerald Ford has been described as a man who cannot walk and chew gum at the same time. A country like the United States can simultaneously tackle an aggressive domestic recovery plan and the peace process.

Anyone anticipating a dramatic change in the U.S. policy toward Israel is deluding himself. The peace-for-territories principle is deep-rooted and passed down from one government to another. What can make a difference are the details, the approach, and/or the people who will deal with the process. People whom Clinton will appoint to senior White House positions will have crucial impact. The idea to appoint Carter a peace affairs minister in the wake of Arab pressure is a bad idea, and my bet is that it will not come to pass.

"My minister told me to keep Israel safe," said Clinton in the course of his election campaign; Vice President Gore has an impressive pro-Israeli record [previous word in English], and it is a shame he is the vice president, not the secretary of state. Some of Clinton's aides harbor negative feelings toward Yitzhaq Rabin. They suspect him of having tacitly supported Bush. Rabin, who plans to attend an AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] convention in Washington in March, is trying to set up a meeting with Clinton, but it is unlikely that the Israeli prime minister will be the new President's first guest.

I have no doubt that Israel will benefit from the change, despite the fact that the new leadership belongs to the post-Holocaust generation. There will be more consideration for Israel's security needs, and the aid and the guarantees will be kept up. At the same time, the major foreign aid cuts cannot but lead gradually to cuts in the civilian aid to Israel. The sensitivity toward the foreign lobbies operating in the United States, which was reflected in Clinton's speeches, will oblige Israel to act cautiously. However, with

a basically pro-Israeli Democratic congress, the Jewish power which helped Clinton to be elected will gradually regain its vitality.

Perhaps living with Clinton will not be a rose garden for Israel, but it will be definitely better than the thorny patch which would have awaited us had Bush been reelected.

No New Suggestions To Be Made to Syria in Talks

TA0511205292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] It was decided in Jerusalem that when peace talks resume on 9 November in Washington, Israel will not proffer any new suggestions to Syria. Rather, it will wait for Syria to make progress. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the aim is to receive Syrian clarifications concerning the substance of the peace agreement with Israel. Unless Syria states its intention to reach full peace, Israel will not offer its interpretation of the term, withdrawal, from the Golan.

In the talks with Jordan, Israel plans to launch a discussion on the practical solution of proposals leading to a peace treaty, as was agreed in the joint document dealing with the talks' agenda. The first issue to be discussed will be water.

The Israeli delegation hopes that the Jordanian document will encourage the Syrians to make progress, rather than cause them to pressure Jordan to delay progress.

Government Agrees to 25-Member Autonomy Council

TA0611060392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Israel will be willing to have the number of members in the autonomy's administrative council raised to 25. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Israel announced this during the Washington talks. Israel had initially agreed to only 15 members, whereas the Palestinians had demanded that the council be made up of 50 members, apparently in a bid to give it the characteristics of a legislative council.

On the eve of the meeting of the committee on refugees in the multilateral track of the negotiations, a consultation was held yesterday at the foreign minister's office. It was decided that Israel will not change its policy on family reunifications.

Violence Expected To Accompany Progress in Talks

TA0511093592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] The Palestinian residents of the territories are experiencing a lull marked by disappointment with the political negotiations. In the field, members of the extreme rejectionist front are very active in pushing for escalation and terror. In the absence of real achievements, Fatah activists are being swept along by the opposition's activity. An additional rise in terrorism and internal violence is expected. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal updates us on the current situation there:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Progress in the political process will be accompanied by an escalation in terror in the territories. This is the assessment of security sources. The Palestinian street is still under control, says Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria. There is a rise in the number of stone-throwing incidents and violence, but we are not witnessing a situation in which the public at large is taking to the streets, as was the case at the beginning of the uprising. Radical elements, mostly belonging to the rejectionist organizations who oppose the peace process, are active in the streets and are responsible for the attempts to incite the public and attack IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and Israeli civilians.

As a rule, the Palestinians are disappointed by the absence of real progress in the field as a result of the negotiations, and they are losing their patience.

[Zohar] It has been a year since the Madrid conference. If you remember, they received Madrid with olive branches. Now the olive branches are gone. On the one hand, they have become more realistic, but on the other, they are very tensely awaiting developments in the peace process.

[Segal] Could this also explain the recent wave of terror in the territories?

[Zohar] I would say it could. The political process undoubtedly has an impact and will have an impact in the future. We cannot ignore the fact that when processes take place, they have an influence on the area. Certainly the positions on the process held by the various parties—those who support it and those who oppose it—have become sharper, and in the end this finds expression in outbursts of violence, some of which we have recently been the victims of, unfortunately.

[Segal] The activists of the factions that support the process, with Fatah in the lead, are being swept along by the extremists and, in the absence of real achievements, cannot stop the drive of the opposition in the territories. The defense establishment is preparing to deal with this drive, which is accompanied by serious terror attacks. Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, says:

[Rothschild] We must at least take into account—even if this does not happen in the end—that as the political process progresses, the opposition's motivation to fight it through terror activity will grow. Therefore, we must do all we can to nullify the opposition's ability and desire to disrupt the process.

[Segal] Gen. Rothschild told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has more funds than Fatah today. They come from elements in Saudi Arabia, in addition to Iranian funding. Hamas' financial edge is yet

another problem for Fatah to confront in the struggle to win over Palestinian public opinion. It is believed that progress in the political process could release internal pressures through violence. Gen. Zohar says:

[Zohar] There is internal violence in Palestinian society today as well. It has not yet reached the level of the Fatah-Hamas fighting we witnessed in Gaza during a certain period or in Judaea and Samaria to some degree. We assume that as the process progresses, this will force the parties to sharpen their stands and the tension could lead to violence between them.

[Segal] A lot of that tension is directed against the members of the Palestinian delegation. Today, more than ever before, they find it hard to explain to the public that, for now, progress in the talks cannot be measured by practical deeds in the field. [end recording]

Water Distribution Top Issue in Talks With Jordan

TA0111061592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Nov 92

[Text] The Israeli-Jordanian peace negotiators have agreed that the first agenda item at the next round of talks will be a fair distribution of water resources. Qol Yisra'el's political affairs correspondent says the aim of the discussions is to establish a permanent arrangement for the system currently being used to divide out resources available. The heads of the three Israeli teams to the peace talks will brief the cabinet today on the round of talks just completed in Washington and the progress made there.

Al-Husayni on Prospects for Peace Talks

TA3010191792 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Oct 92 pp 7, 14

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation advisory committee, by Pinhas 'Inbari—"last week" in East Jerusalem]

[Text] ['Inbari] Many Israelis have been asking themselves recently: If the peace process means a rise in violence in the territories and in Lebanon, then why do we need the peace talks? We can, after all, go back to the previous stage when, at least, there was not so much violence.

[Al-Husayni] Today's situation has nothing to do with the peace talks. These are reactions and counteractions to daily events. This is a closed circle of violence and counterviolence. For example, two weeks ago there was a demonstration in al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, and a group of the special forces fired eight bullets at one of the demonstrators. They continued shooting him even after he fell bleeding to the ground. One of the neighbors called me in tears. The boy was dying and the Army would not let the ambulance get to him. Only after a strong protest was made was the ambulance allowed in. The methods and the manner in which they kill people, even if they are fugitives, are a source of concern, and provide armed men with enough reasons to act.

The current round of talks does give much more hope that formulas can be found to solve the roots of the problem. At the same time, if we stay with temporary and random formulas, we will be preparing the ground for additional violence and counterviolence.

['Inbari] Still, the 10 rejectionist organizations have said that the violence is aimed at recalling the Palestinian delegation from the talks. They say this in their leaflets.

[Al-Husayni] The violence does not necessarily stem from the acts of those 10 organizations.

['Inbari] The recent events were perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Nayif Hawatimah's organization.

[Al-Husayni] They did not carry out the military operations. There is a group of wanted men who feel that the special units want to eliminate them personally. That is why they arm themselves with the best weapons, conduct the best training, and prepare for the worst to defend themselves the best they can. This upgrades their prestige and encourages more youths to join them out of admiration. To every action there is a reaction. If, however, the issue is approached in a different way, a political way, a situation would be created where this would finally end.

As for the activity of the 10 organizations, I do not believe it comes from inside the territories. It comes from outside. In the territories, only Hamas, the Popular Front, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine operate. These three organizations constitute a political opposition of a democratic nature. There may be occasional friction between these or other organizations, but there is nothing new or special about it. The main activity is that of open political debates.

The political process has opened the door for an open democratic debate among the Palestinians. The violence is a direct reaction to the acts of the special Israeli forces. After all it is not injustice that breeds the revolution, it is the feeling that injustice was done. As long as this feeling exists, such phenomena will come about. The French revolution broke out during the days of Louis XVI, who was less tough then the kings before him. The feeling of injustice ripened under his rule. Our public is sitting on the edge of a volcano. Fire breaks out not necessarily when the attitude is good or bad, but when the feeling of injustice rages more. We have to attend to the problem underlying the volcano.

['Inbari] What would you suggest Israel do to deal with the problem?

[Al-Husayni] I would demand that Israel clarify that settlements are not of first priority.

['Inbari] But Israel made it clear that it is changing the order of its national priorities, setting the settlements aside.

[Al-Husayni] Israel, nevertheless, continues building 11,000 new housing units in the territories. Assuming each apartment will be housed by three settlers, the number of settlers

will be tripled, when compared to the previous 25 years! In terms of settlements, this beats the achievements of the settlers in the past eight years! It is true that aid to settlers was stopped, but this is of no interest to the common Palestinian. All he can see is that the construction continues, and no settlement has stopped.

As for the confidence-building measures: Israel had announced the release of 800 prisoners. We demanded that prison terms be commuted by a third; that people sentenced to 15 years be freed after serving 10. Instead, Israel released prisoners who were about to end their term anyway. This step cannot be seriously considered a gesture. They released people who were due to be released within several weeks or days. In several instances, they even made the "gesture" of delaying the release of some inmates.

And why did they not agree to release sick prisoners? Could they not let prisoners dying of cancer die at home and not in prisons? And why did those who stay in prison have to stage a hunger strike to improve their living conditions? To allow a father to meet his son? Such things motivate people to take action. They spoke of opening streets—they remained closed; the confidence-building gestures created no confidence; the Palestinians were not convinced that Israel's intentions are trustworthy.

['Inbari] On the agenda of the Washington talks are matters of no lesser importance, such as transferring authorities from Israel to the Palestinians. Why is there not significant progress made there?

[Al-Husayni] This has to be examined realistically. The process started with Shamir, and when Rabin took over, he did not act on the Labor party platform. The Labor platform speaks of the Palestinian people's national rights. We do not hear this in the talks. It would have been very useful had it been mentioned in the talks. It would have put us on a better track. The platform speaks of applying UN Resolution 242 to all sectors. We have yet to hear this from Israel. We want to hear of the geographic application of 242. Israel's position is vague. The transitional stage is part of 242. Israel refuses to say this, leaving it to the second stage.

['Inbari] But the second stage is not so far; it is only three years away.

[Al-Husayni] True, but the connection between the stages has to be made clear. We feel that Israel treats us as a minority. As residents of a certain region who should engage in education and culture with no connection to land. This is a dangerous principle. We want it to be clear that the whole move is based on 242. In the second stage we will discuss the implementation of 242, not the resolution itself.

['Inbari] But Israel made it clear that 242 applies to all fronts.

[Al-Husayni] We did not see that expressed at the negotiating table. It was an important declaration, but it was not practically expressed. This disturbs us Palestinians a lot. Currently we are engaged in drafting the agenda for one year of talks, keeping in mind that Shamir spoke of 10 years of negotiations.

['Inbari] But Rabin is not Shamir.

[Al-Husayni] No, he is not Shamir, but Rabin has yet to implement the Labor platform. For example, which of the Palestinians should be Israel's negotiating partner? Rabin charged that Shamir was in practice negotiating with the PLO, claiming that Shamir is fooling the people. Why does Rabin himself continue doing the same?

['Inbari] It is Rabin of all people though who allows open meetings with the PLO. The delegation participates in Palestinian gatherings and meets with the PLO leadership freely and openly. He was not excited about Knesset Member Darawshah's meetings in Tunis either.

[Al-Husayni] True, but Rabin still does not accept this officially. This position is a problem for us and we want to eliminate it. We are Palestinians and we want to be accepted as a single body. Rabin can dissipate our concern if he treats us as a single body.

As for Jerusalem, he refuses to contact me. We recognize that the Jerusalem problem will be raised at the second stage of the talks and we support an open Jerusalem. This does not mean that we must not talk about developments in Jerusalem, especially when there is agreement that no side may change the status quo before the second stage of deliberations. Israel nevertheless continues to build settlements in Jerusalem and its surroundings, thus changing the status quo. This increases our fears of Israel's policy on the issue of the permanent solution for this city. Jerusalem must have a clear Palestinian role. East Jerusalem is slated to be our capital, just as the western part is Israel's, and the city will be open. There must be coordination and cooperation on this matter. It is then impossible to conduct political negotiations as if Jerusalem did not exist.

['Inbari] On Jerusalem, we would like to congratulate you on dedicating the "Palestinian guest house." We witnessed this week that you accorded the Portuguese prime minister a somewhat state-like reception, and a Palestinian security guard supervised security arrangements. If so, placed on the scales of the political process now is more than just "education" as you mentioned before, but rather a real Palestinian statehood, and in Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] It has been more than three years that I have received representatives of foreign countries in my house under very difficult conditions. Now I will be able to receive them in an orderly manner. There is security responsibility involved here too, and we shall face up to it. The guest's security must be guaranteed, and the press should be able to cover the visit. Reference is to a security body for these needs only. The cultural treasures in this building should also be protected.

['Inbari] The PLO Central Council held a meeting in Tunis prior to this past week's round of talks in Washington, and 'Abd-al-Shafi was quoted as saying that if a choice is to be made between national unity and progress in the peace process, he would choose national unity. Do you share this position?

[Al-Husayni] He did not say quite that. In any event, to guarantee the success of the talks, national unity should be guaranteed. Without national unity there will be greater difficulties, but nobody said that the talks would stop in the absence of national unity. Agreement should be reached at least on what we, the Palestinians, dispute. We cannot agree to anything, but the talks must conclude with an agreement. Later we shall ask the public for its opinion. The talks themselves are one matter; their result is a completely different business. We will bring the agreements to our legitimate institutions. If there are problems, we will return to the people for a referendum. The referendum will not be on the holding of the negotiations, but on the outcome. The people have a right to express their opinion.

['Inbari] Nabil Sha'th is reported to have said that if Israel is prepared to give the Palestinians Gaza first, why insist on Resolution 242? It is possible to receive Gaza and then proceed to demand the rest. What is your position on this?

[Al-Husayni] I did not notice he made such remarks. My position is that we want an overall solution. We want to eliminate the problem, not to reach solutions which will be tantamount to signposts for a new conflict. We are responsible for the problems of our people and will not demand even a single inch without being able to assume responsibility for it. If Israel withdraws from Gaza we will fulfill our duty toward its residents, but this will not replace an overall solution, nor will it be at the expense of concessions elsewhere. Not everything I will receive from Israel will necessarily be a progressive move on its part, but rather a move which will enable Israel to get rid of an economic or another kind of burden so as to be free to handle other occupation problems. If Israel wants to withdraw from Gaza, this is its responsibility, but it will be a unilateral move. If it wants to withdraw from Gaza, let it do so. Talks will continue regarding the rest of the lands. An Israeli withdrawal from Gaza is not connected to an agreement between Israel and us.

['Inbari] Following the PLO Central Council deliberations a coordination meeting took place in Amman and disagreements were reported between you and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Al-Shar' attacked the Palestinians' consent for an interim period in which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will remain in the territories, a thing which makes it difficult for Syria to demand the IDF's withdrawal from the Golan.

[Al-Husayni] This was not the case. A discussion took place about all tracks of the process, how each track will affect another, and on whether the interim period regarding the Palestinian issue will disrupt matters for the Syrians in one manner or another. It was agreed that as long as the principle of withdrawal on all fronts is insisted upon, progress on one track is not linked to progress in another.

['Inbari] If so, the Palestinians can advance in the talks with Israel without looking askance to the Syrian track to see if similar progress is made there too.

[Al-Husayni] After the principle of withdrawal was approved, as long as this principle is agreed upon, there is no real problem if a withdrawal on one front takes place before a withdrawal on another. This relies on the basis which stipulates that the overall solution will apply to all at the same time.

['Inbari] In one of your meetings with 'Arafat it was reported that he opposed your idea of establishing a Palestinian police.

[Al-Husayni] 'Arafat did not oppose the Palestinian police idea. In his opinion, the materialization of this idea too requires a transitional stage. The Palestinian police should evolve from another police or from a third party. Israel should hand over police powers to a third party, and that party will delegate the powers to the Palestinians gradually. The principle is that the Palestinian police will receive its powers from a third party and not directly from Israel.

['Inbari] Are you referring to an Arab third party such as Egypt or Jordan, or to an international one?

[Al-Husayni] This is not important, and we shall discuss it still. It can be an Arab, international, or European third party.

['Inbari] Another round of talks ended in Washington this past week. When will it be possible to reach a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of intent, if at all?

[Al-Husayni] The next part of this round will be more positive, and I hope we will be able to release a declaration of intent, although there are no signs of this now. We will find ourselves after the U.S. elections then, and much of the uncertainty which blocks progress at the moment will disappear. We will know the identity of the president as well as the possible nature of the U.S. postelection policy.

Palestinian Delegation Said Lacking Support

TA0411211092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Report by Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir]

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, a member of the Israeli delegation to peace talks with the Palestinians [and the coordinator of government activities in the territories], believes the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks is devoid of public backing, significant influence, or power in the territories. It has hardly any control, because it does not represent several important

zones, such as Nabulus and Hebron. The population of these zones feels inferior because of what can be construed as a takeover of the delegation by notables from Jerusalem and the periphery. For instance, prominent Nabulus families have no representation. In this situation, Gen. Rothschild's theory says, the Palestinian delegation has no authority, and thus it does not genuinely represent the territory.

Into this vacuum steps Jordan, to which some new circles in the territories—not necessarily the traditional ones—feel drawn. Jordan, on its part, is developing new venues of influence, venues which were blocked by past events.

The influence of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is notorious, but today Maj. Gen. Rothschild pointed to the financial power of this organization in the territories, which is funneled to education. Hamas receives money from Saudi Arabia and Iran and funnels it to students in the form of study grants. Fatah, on the other hand, forcibly raises funds from residents of the territories. Hamas, which has been active in the field of education, has been urging intifadah youths to return to school.

Maj. Gen. Rothschild—and others as well—attributes great importance to the economic rehabilitation of the territories. Today he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel encourages the creation of jobs in the territories. In the Gaza Strip, Israel encourages the establishment of flower hothouses, which employ far more workers than citrus orchards.

Maj. Gen. Rothschild further said he does not believe the government's gestures toward the population of the territories were perceived there as weakness.

Commentary Says Meretz Harmed by Crisis Solution

TA0411125292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 92 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Its Voice Will Sound Weak and Hoarse"]

[Text] Such is the nature of government crises: They draw the attention to the small details of the race for the compromise solution, while their broad meaning is set aside. Anyone spending too much time understanding the meaning beyond the crisis in the midst of the chaos, will have a hard time solving it. When it ends, with a tired sigh of relief, it is too late to do anything. Last week's (seemingly) resolved crisis, as much as it gathered momentum around the nonsense part of it, was one of the most important in the long history of coalition confrontations. Among other damages it caused, it had a political outcome the effect of which will be felt for a very long time.

Its main result is the erosion in Meretz' status as a carrier of significant weight in the balance between the religious and secular. Meretz did not come out well of this whole chain of events. For the first time, it was forced to grant concessions to the ultra-Orthodox, the struggle against which has been the basis of its career. Yitzhaq Rabin's passive conduct, not intervening in and stopping the crisis in time, deserves a repeated condemnation. This conduct, however, yielded a bonus: Labor has managed to hide behind Meretz, portraying the latter as the party that delivered the goods to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

With the peace negotiations showing signs of progress, religion and state relations and civil rights are the main issues left on the Meretz banner. Its maneuverability on the most significant item on its agenda has now been damaged. Its rivals will viciously make sure that it is reminded of it at every opportunity, until the next elections. On the other hand, Labor, which included in its platform the vacuous chapter regarding the separation of religion from politics, could play naive and claim: It was not us. It was our past rival, present partner, which pushed the government deeper into the ultra-Orthodox mud. What do you want from Labor? All it did was to conduct the efforts to solve the Meretz-SHAS crisis.

Avraham Burg, the initiator of the politics-religion clause in the Labor platform, which gained him large popularity, named the agreement with the not-so-original adjective "stinking." This marked the first example of the possible Labor tactic in its struggle against its old-time rival over the votes of the secular center. Here are several additional arguments that could be well received by a public that has had enough of the stench: In the future, you had better support us and give us a strong enough backing so that we could conduct the negotiations with the ultra-Orthodox on our own, without the Meretz obstacles; they hate us less; we do not upset them as Meretz does; if we are stronger, we could improve our standing against the ultra-Orthodox pressure without the weakening split between us and our problematic partner.

The debate among the parties regarding the ultra-Orthodox's demanding nature is no longer ideological. The positions are more or less clear. The next generation of Labor leaders—Hayim Ramon, David Liba'i, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Avraham Burg, and others—have the correct ideas regarding the freedom of choice in religious and human rights issues. They are not far behind Meretz on these issues. The future question will not be whether to oppose the concessions and humiliations, but which will be the most efficient political way to deal with the rising ultra-Orthodox influence. Meretz lost important points on this matter, and Labor gained. The famous Jewish anecdote about disguising nonkosher food, provided Meretz with a new bottom line: It is both stinking and nonkosher.

In the catch-as-catch-can power struggle among the parties, the bigger and the stronger increases its might in a struggle which is primarily political. Meretz will remain the leader in coining political ideas and the shine of the anti-religious coercion package it presents to the public. Nevertheless, this so-called crisis, with its so-called solution, teaches us that Meretz lost its power and damaged its image in this political fistfight.

A weak Meretz means a change in the overall political mapping of the parties. Over the years, Labor has moved to the center, with parts of it even going to the right of it. The Meretz merger is all that is left now of the Israeli left wing, except for two small Arab parties. The blow to its prestige constitutes a significant erosion in this branch of Israeli politics. Its voice will now sound weak and hoarse in whatever it says (if it is allowed to speak and go unpunished at all) on whatever issue—starting with the peace negotiations through to comments on the ultra-Orthodox.

Likud and Labor have always found it hard to conduct anticlerical propaganda because of their constant fear of a coalition rainy day on which they might have to compete for the support of the ultra-Orthodox. So far, Meretz has enjoyed their tactical weakness. Some of its 12 Knesset seats were earned thanks to it. The ball it has had so far was disrupted by this nonkosher and stinking paper of understanding. Here is an example: Who will care about the Meretz claim that chapter nine of the agreement—the scandalous ban on the imports of nonkosher meat—was a Labor, not a Meretz contribution.

The one whose urgent interest was to bring back peace to the government is not to be suspected of planning such an outcome of the crisis. Rabin lacks the malice and zeal required for that. But the damage caused to Meretz and the left wing in the broad context of the struggle for the secular culture in Israel is perhaps the most important result of the battle. SHAS is not the only one basking its light. Rabin, a traditional target for Meretz attacks, can now smile like the cat who swallowed the canary.

'Terrorists' Captured After Infiltration From Jordan

TA0611120592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1138 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Two Jordanian terrorists who had planned to stage an attack in Israel were captured at dawn in the Jordan Rift Valley. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports from our Tel Aviv studio:

The infiltration of two terrorists from Jordan into Israel was detected at around 0130 [2330 GMT] last night, 1 km north of Argaman in the Jordan Valley. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit arrived at the scene and set out in pursuit. The two, one aged 21 and the other aged 23, were captured shortly afterward. They were found to be in possession of barbed wire clippers and copies of the Koran and were handed over to the security forces for interrogation. Searches conducted in the area revealed a knife with a 20-cm blade and an ax which the two had dropped during the chase. It is estimated that the two planned to stage a terrorist attack in Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 6 November carries a similar report, adding that "the two were apparently Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members."]

Military sources reiterate that they consider Jordan responsible for any infiltration attempt, shooting, or terrorist attack from its territory. [passage omitted]

9 Wanted People Captured by Security Forces

TA3010202192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Oct 92

[Text] Over the last three days the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Shin Bet have captured four wanted people, three from Ramallah and one from Nabulus. Another five wanted people turned themselves in to the security forces, four from the Janin District and one from Ramallah. Our correspondents Moti Amir and Karmela Menashe report that the nine belong to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by George Habash and Fatah. Among other things, they are suspected of murdering an Arab policeman, violent interrogations and attacks of Arab residents, and possession of weapons. They are also suspected of setting woods on fire and poisoning cattle in Israeli villages.

IDF Soldiers Killed, Wounded in Training Exercise

TA0511184792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Five IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed and six were wounded during an operational exercise in the south of the country. During the exercise, a rocket was fired as a result of a mishap and hit a group of soldiers. The families of the fatalities and casualties have been informed. The names of the dead are: Sergeant Shifran Shimri, 20, of Kibbutz Nezer Sereni; Sergeant Tamir Sharon, 21, of Kibbutz Merom Golan; Staff Sergeant Cohen Arye, 20, of Moshav 'Ammi'az; Lieutenant Shilo El'ad, 20, of Kibbutz Giv'at Brenner; and Corporal Wachselbaum 'Eran, 22, of Tel Aviv. An announcement will be made on the time of the funerals. Netan'el Semrik is in the studio with the details:

The accident occurred at 0730 this morning at one of the military training areas in Ze'elim in the south. It happened during an operational exercise by an elite Army unit. Due to a hitch, a rocket was fired at a group of soldiers, killing five soldiers. The families have been informed. Another six soldiers from the same unit were wounded and transferred by helicopter to the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba. The condition of two soldiers is serious, one soldier is suffering medium wounds, and three sustained light wounds. The circumstances surrounding the mishap are still unclear and are being investigated.

Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, was immediately informed of the accident. Chief of Staff Ehud Barak appointed an inquiry committee headed by Reserve Major General Menahem 'Enan. Attorney Amnon Goldenberg accepted an IDF request to serve as a member of the committee. The other members of the inquiry committee are two senior officers in the reserves who specialize in investigations.

Training in the elite unit has been ceased. The chief of staff has also ordered the complete stop of all live training exercises on land for all branches of the Army. The order is in effect until Tuesday night. The halt in live exercises will be exploited to go over safety precautions in preparing and conducting live exercises. The exercise is also being investigated inside the affected unit and the special committee started its investigation several hours after the accident occurred. The committee's findings and recommendations will be presented to the chief of staff in the coming days.

Two years ago, a training accident occurred in a nearby training area in Ze'elim, in which five soldiers died. We must stress that there is no connection or similarity between the circumstances of that accident and the one this morning. In the July 1990 accident, a shell was fired at a group of soldiers on reserve duty during an exercise to capture an objective.

European Firm To Check Possible Canal

TA0111202892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Nov 92

[Text] A large European engineering firm has undertaken to complete a feasibility study of the northern canal project within a year. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that an agreement to this effect was signed over the weekend. According to the plan drafted by Engineer Shlomo Gur, water would flow from the Mediterranean Sea in the 'Atlit area through the valleys to Bet She'an, where a desalination plant would be established.

The European firm will invest $2 million to check the feasibility of desalinating 800 million cubic meters of water in the Jordan Rift Valley in order to bolster Israel's and Jordan's water resources and to flow water to the Jordan River so as to stabilize the water level of Lake Tiberias. The feasibility study will also encompass environmental aspects. The Jordanian Government has for some time been aware of the plan, which is now being examined by Israeli Government officials.

Dual Taxation System in Territories Defended

TA0611092992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The State of Israel enforced its tax laws on the Jewish residents of the territories on a personal rather than a geographical basis. That is why their tax rates differ from those of the Arab residents, who are subject to Jordanian law. This pronouncement is included in an affidavit submitted by the State Attorney's Office to the High Court of Justice in response to a petition filed by 92 Bayt Sahur residents, who are seeking to write off their five-year debt to the Income Tax Authority and to make tax rates and collection methods equal for all residents of the territories. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports:

In accordance with the requirements of international law, the income tax collected from Arabs in the territories is based on Jordanian law, the State Attorney's Office states in an affidavit to the High Court of Justice. The tax amendments introduced by the Army and the Civil Administration do not violate Jordanian law and are meant to improve the well-being of the population. As a matter of fact, the State argues, these amendments and reforms were actually meant to update and adjust taxes to the economic reality of the Arabs in the territories in the wake of the intifadah and the Gulf war.

Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, stresses in the affidavit that the economy in the territories is totally different from the Israeli economy. Arab wage earners have an average monthly income of 700 shekels and are required to pay taxes on an income exceeding 1,000 shekels. On the other hand, Jewish wage earners have an average monthly income of 2,000 shekels and are required to pay taxes on an income exceeding 1,900 shekels. Were Arabs subject to Israeli tax laws, the affidavit notes, most of them would be exempt from paying taxes because their income would fall below the minimum taxable income. Were that the case, public coffers in the territories would be empty, and it would be impossible to provide services to the population. On the other hand, so as not to make the territories a tax haven for Jewish residents who receive services in Israel, they are required to pay the same tax rates as in Israel.

Arguing for the State, Nili Arad, director of the Department of High Court of Justice Matters, notes that the difference in taxation is not discriminatory. She stresses that all tax revenues in the territories are used only for the well-being of the Arab population, whose budget is run as a self-contained economy.

Nevertheless, the State Attorney's Office insists that it is not obliged to disclose the budget of the Civil Administration or to detail expenditures, as demanded by the Bayt Sahur residents in their petition to the High Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, aside from the fundamental arguments of the tax rebels, raised on their behalf by Attorney Avigdor Feldman, the Bayt Sahur residents are refusing to pay and are seeking to write off their five-year debt to the Income Tax Authority.

King Husayn Addresses Nation

JN0511193892 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Address to the nation by King Husayn; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

God's peace and blessings be upon Muhammad, the loyal Arab prophet, and all his kin and companions.

Brother citizens, sincere, loyal, and good ones: Peace be with you, and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. I thank Almighty God for His blessings and great bounty in making of this country a free and secure haven, as well as in bestowing upon me good health and enabling me to return to my people and my tribe. I seek the Almighty's help in all matters pertaining to this present world and the hereafter. On Him I depend, and in Him I place my sole trust.

On this occasion, I wish to speak to you from the heart. The comprehensive medical tests, conducted to ascertain the state of my health, revealed—as I was frankly told by the doctors at al-Husayn Medical Center—the presence of abnormal cells, requiring, in the doctors' view, that I seek urgent attention at a medical center of worldwide reputation, particularly in the treatment of the ailment from which I was suffering. At that moment, it was not difficult for me to realize that these were cancerous cells. I thanked God for what He had ordained for me and I put my trust in Him, as I have always done throughout my life. I placed myself at His command and prayed that He preserve my country and people and reward all the good ones with the greatest recompense on my behalf. For it was Almighty God who honored me with my Jordanian, Arab, and Hashemite affiliation and with a family with which I have lived and for which I have sought to achieve glory, security, and dignity at every moment of my life.

As I left the cherished soil of Jordan, you were with me, providing great moral and spiritual support. Since I bade you farewell on the morning of 17 August on my way to my ordained destination, the images of our joint march have continued to rush into my mind throughout the long distances, crowding out all others. You were with me as I crossed the ocean to a land that seemed so distant only because you were far from me. Over and over again, I recalled our joint journey across the soil of beloved Jordan, as well as your goodness and patience over a period of 40 years, which never suffered from any diminution of strength, relaxation of determination, or flickering of the great pan-Arab Jordanian anthem.

Fellow citizens, brave compatriots, peace be with you and greetings to you wherever you may be and in whatever position you may occupy—to the elderly, the fathers, mothers, children, teachers, students, soldiers, farmers, and laborers. Words alone are incapable of expressing my appreciation, thanks, and gratitude for the true and noble feelings you have shown me. You have surrounded me with true emotions, realized through a display of flags and posters in every corner of this beloved land. For on the afternoon of Thursday, 24 September, you wove a Jordanian fabric which united us all, as you set out to welcome your brother and son, the companion of your struggle—Husayn. I now feel that the Almighty has honored me during my lifetime by enabling me to witness these noble sentiments, echoed as well by Arab and Muslim brethren in our great nation and by good friends around the world, of all nationalities, shades of opinion, and age groups. To them all I extend my sincere thanks, greetings, and affection. I still recall these true, splendid emotions and feel at peace as I read God's words in His holy book to His loyal prophet: By the glorious morning light, and by the night when it is still, thy Guardian-Lord hath not forsaken thee, nor is He displeased. And verily the hereafter will be better for thee than the present. And soon will thy Guardian-Lord give thee that wherewith thou shalt be well-pleased. [Koranic verse]

I find great succor in this profound love that prevails between me and this great family. It has dominated my mind, heart, and conscience since I was destined to know who I am—a Hashemite Arab, a son of the immortal city of Amman, where I was born 57 years ago. I realized from the outset, and throughout the journey of life, that vanity is fatal and that the only life worth adhering to is one representing a journey of struggle for exalted values and noble aims; one that recognizes that every living soul will meet its destined end, that every death has its own causes, and that when the instant of death comes, no hour could be postponed or brought forward. The true believer is he who has faith in the one God who has no partners, he who respects the rights and freedoms of others, and he who has lived his life in submission to God's will, thanking Him for His countless blessings, believing that man can only get as much as he does, shouldering responsibility with honor and sincerity, and beseeching God, ruler of the heavens and earth, to honor him with a verdict in his favor by generations to come. I have lived with you and among you. Each of you has a special place in my heart and mind. My joy was, and is still, part of your joy, and my pain is tied to your pain. I could not be otherwise because you have been to me a father, brother, uncle, mother, sister, aunt, friend, and companion. I have witnessed your patience over the years and I have tested my own patience when the Almighty chose to try me through my recent illness. I anchored my spirit in you and in the patience of the Karbala'is [reference to holy city of Karbala' in Iraq] of Al al-Bayt. I beseeched God to help me through my affliction and provide the people with an example of patience and endurance, counting me among those who have endured with patience and have placed their trust in the Almighty.

In this life of struggle, here I am among you fully cognizant that a true believer has no fear of what God

has ordained for him. Those who are visited by such fear live only for their present, under the illusion that the world began with them and will end with their departure. I find it incumbent on me to tell you that I will have to travel, at intervals determined by my physicians and beginning shortly after a month from now, to the medical center where I was treated. This will be for the purpose of undergoing tests to confirm that I have—God willing—been cured. I also feel duty bound to address you at this time with my usual frankness and clarity. I wish to tell you that the life of an enlightened people and a vibrant nation cannot be measured by the life of an individual. A successful person is one who manages to lay down a new brick that would help firm up his nation's existence. I was and will continue to be mindful of the directive of my grandfather, the founder [of the Kingdom], who told me that he perceived his life as a link in a continuous chain of those who served the nation and that he expected me to be a new and strong link in that chain. A few days later, he was chosen by the Almighty to reside by His side as a martyr on the soil of immortal Jerusalem in the precincts of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque. I have recalled this directive over and over again, and have remembered its intent more than any other. I have comprehended its import as it was no doubt intended. This is because it summarized the vision of the founder shaykh with regard to the responsibility of a leader toward his people and toward his nation, for whose freedom and unity he had lived and died. Clasping the soil of Jerusalem with a martyr's embrace, he passed on the flag of Bani-Hashim and Al al-Bayt to another Hashemite descendant from Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him.

I have recalled all this and have absorbed it as I have never done before—as a manifestation of the weight and integrity of the responsibility in his closing years. He had signaled me out for his will as a young member of his family and a youth from Amman and Jordan. In passing on his legacy, he—God rest his soul—changed this young man's life. Even now I recall the moment when I vowed to God, and to myself, that I would follow in his footsteps and in those of his fathers and grandfathers—for the good of our beloved people and the future of our great nation.

I have since traversed this path, in partnership with you all. I have drawn sustenance from my faith in God, from my love for my fellow men, from my pride in belonging to my people and holding them in great respect, and from my awareness that we are the heirs of the revolt launched and nurtured by our ancestors. As I look at my nation and kinsfolk today, I am conscious that the Great Arab Revolt, which aimed at liberating the people and their lands and establishing their state, was a rebellion against the powers that sought to efface the Arab identity, the identity of the nation which God had honored by revealing His holy book in their undiluted Arab tongue. I am conscious that those men who advanced with Faysal Bin- al-Husayn on Damascus, who joined 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn in battle in Hijaz to liberate Medina and rescue the mosque of the prophet, and who fought with Zayd Bin-al-Husayn and his companions in the battles of Ma'an and al-Tafilah, were in fact launching an all embracing revolution in the name of the nation—as a prelude to establishing this national entity and protecting its soil from any threat to its freedom, its people, or its Islamic and Arab character. This Jordanian entity thus became the bastion of the revolt after the allies placed their interests above their promises, and in the wake of regional regression plaguing certain parts of the Arab nation. We continue until this moment to face this regression with a stubborn determination to preserve the glorious image of our Arab nation, which was once free and unified, and which, with God's grace, will unite again, despite all attempts to deny its past and present history. The Hashemite family shall—as always—remain the peak and core of the Arab nation's battles in the context of history, as well as in the present and future. The Hashemite state shall continue to embody the Islamic Arab message whose banners emanated from Mecca, from the peoples of Bani-Hashem, from Mu'tah, and Karbala', the Hashemite's blood is inextricably mingled with the blood of free men and the poor of the nation in defense of freedom, of justice, and of the people's right to sustenance, security, faith, and free speech.

Brother citizens: The people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan realize their state is not one tied to an individual, a party, a faction, or a class. To them, it is a state with a message. The sons of the Hashemite family recognize that the honor of their affiliation has imposed on them certain responsibilities toward the whole nation. They know that they should live up to their responsibilities in word and deed, in their way of life and through their struggle to preserve the trust they carry and respect the honorable descent of which they are part. They are aware that they enjoy a status with which God has ennobled those who recognize its meaning and seek to rise to its level. They also know that the masters and sharifs among them are those who have in their lives endowed their titles with meaning and true significance by relying on piety, noble character, compassion, generosity, humility, and sacrifices to attain God's favor, their own peace of mind, and a just verdict by history and future generations.

These were the visions that engulfed me as I met with you upon my return, as indeed they had prevailed in our other great meetings. In all of this, I have reached two conclusions: The first is related to the descendants of the Al al-Bayt of Muhammad, God's blessing and salvation be upon him; and the second relates to Bani-Hashim of Al al-Bayt, as well as to Jordan and the Arab homeland—both now and in the future.

As for Al al-Bayt, God has honored them with their lineage to the exclusion of all others. I deem it my duty to urge them, wherever they are, to forge closer links among themselves and to live up to the status which their lineage dictates—both as individuals and as groups. I ask

them to be the most humble of people, the most righteous, and the most true in fearing the Almighty. I ask them to abide by God's will and to always fight for God's sake. They should never fear blame for voicing the truth. This family has coexisted with the history of the entire nation and has spread its wings, not only in the Arab and Muslim world, but around the globe as well. It has made great contributions, but has still been a target of injury, envy, and persecution. Duty requires us all to seek to bring it back together and strengthen ties among its members, with no consideration in mind other than respect and love, which ought to govern these relations, regardless of temporal status and positions.

As for the second aspect, it resides in the fact that our Hashemite family has met with both adversity and success. It has been fought and resisted because throughout its existence it has been part and parcel of our nation. Its success stems from the fact that through its noble descent, its hard work and its position, it has remained above temporal ambitions and differences. This is so because it represents the message and stands for legitimacy and continuity. It is not strange, therefore, that Faysal I fought in Hijaz and in Syria, then settled in Iraq; or that Zayd [Bin-al-Husayn] fought in the Hijaz as well as in Jordan. It is not strange either that 'Abdallah fought as the commander of the eastern army in Hijaz, liberated Medina, and had the honor of rescuing the sacred Al-Rawdah, the Medina mosque, and the hallowed grounds that embraced the denizens of al-Baqi' [cemetery near Medina], the martyrs of Al-al-Bayt and the Muslims. He then moved to Jordan, rescued the land, and then built, along with its people, this great citadel which is impregnable to the nation's enemies, which stands fast in the face of challenges, and which is true to righteousness and the message, not willing to bargain over the nation's interests and refusing to break its historic pledge to defend the nation's freedom and protect its future generations.

This is a united Hashemite Arab family, which has fought with the brave and free men of the nation to liberate this glorious nation in response to the call of duty, and in line with the people's natural aspirations for freedom, independence, and unity in the wake of severe oppression, which had almost led to the loss of their language and civilization, and which saw their free men and notables hanging from the gallows.

The family was united with the nation, just as it was throughout its history, thus the Great Arab Revolt was one of the brightest manifestations of this unity. The grandsons of the revered leader of the Great Revolt—and their children and grandchildren after them—will continue to bear the nation's standard, generation after generation, true to the honor and spirit of their descent from the prophet, God's peace and blessing be upon him, and to their allegiance to the struggle of his noble clan. In saying this about my family and kin, Al al-Bayt and Bani-Hashim, let God be my witness that we have no purpose other than serving this nation. To the small-minded ones, it may appear that Husayn harbors ambition or greed, there are many who judge things and people depending on their own view of things or of themselves. May God forgive them, for the fact is that I have no ambition other than winning God's satisfaction and fulfilling my trust. My dearest wish is for the verdict of future generations to be for me and not against me, since I realize that shouldering responsibility at this point in time entails an acceptance of life's voyage under the most difficult of circumstances, which are viciously inimical to those with a great heart and living conscience.

Brothers, we can rightfully ask ourselves what we have achieved in the face of the pan-Arab setbacks and upheavals which have beset our nation and world during these turbulent times. We thank God that we have achieved a great deal. We have established in this chaste land the foundations of a modern democratic state. This was due to God's bounty in the first place, and also to the positive response of our noble, perceptive people, who, regardless of their origins and habitats, have been aware of their message, cognizant of their role, and conscious of the challenges they have had to meet. It has likewise been due to a unified vision shared by the leadership and the people over an entire century. We should work to further strengthen these foundations and to further release energy. We should bring forth new life in this democratic climate, so that Jordan can remain a land of the free and the proud who bow their heads only to God; a land of responsibility whose people recognize balance in all things, especially between rights and obligations; a land of credibility which is capable of forging ahead in times of deepest darkness and profoundest challenge; a land of dignity enjoyed by every one of its own citizens, as well as by the free who seek its protection and by the true who seek to join their people's quest to preserve the nation's right to life and to lead it out of its disarray, weakness, despair, and loss, and who seek to forge a unified, free, dignified, and immortal nation.

We have passed through a difficult time, but you have been capable of rising to the level of your responsibilities. I have been with you as you strove to prevent the collapse of the pan-Arab edifice. I have been among you as you, with your blood, drove away the darkness of the night. With you, I see myself all the more proud, all the more strong, and all the more capable of providing support. I have known you to be the bravest of people in the defense of right and freedom. I have lived among you as you clasped to your hearts brethren of yours when they were rocked by tragedy or shaken by misfortune. I shouldered your cares in my youth and early manhood. And here I am now observing the generations which are moving to build a pan-Arab, democratic Jordan, while receiving their inspiration and the foundations of their work from the message, the revolt, the Constitution and the Charter—without any recklessness, fanaticism, upheaval, or overbearing behavior. And we recall a time when we were waging our battles alone—weaving the flag

of a union between the two banks, Arabizing the Army command, establishing universities and institutes of learning, setting up national institutions of which we are truly proud, and rallying the best and most elite among our religious and legal minds to establish our pioneering civil law based on Muslim Shari'ah. We also recall a time when we held fast against intellectual disarray, conspiracy, and lack of responsibility when we stood up to those who infringed on the rights of Arab citizens, denigrated the reverences of the great message, played fast and loose, aborted opportunities for freedom and growth, and willfully tampered with the nation's unity. We remember how we fought the nation's wars, even when we had been kept in the dark about the date of battles, how we shed our blood in the plains of al-Karamah, how we told the nation on that rosy morning that we had the upper hand, that the road to Jerusalem passes through our sacrifice, our river, our unity, and our determined steadfastness, and that we would never surrender one iota of our nation's rights—from the Arab sea to the last outpost on the distant sea of darkness [Atlantic Ocean].

These, then, are the landmarks of our journey, Jordan's immortal journey, which is rooted in the nation's spirit, its martyrs, and its challenges. I am proud that, throughout my entire life, it has also been my own journey. Let us together launch an appeal to this beloved nation—one that would renew itself across distance, location, and time—to stand up to the ambitious and to the renegades; to protect its capitals from those who would advocate tyranny or who would tie the destiny of nations to individuals; and to open wide the gates of freedom, democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights. Our own model is open to the entire nation. Let them come to our universities, our institutions, our schools, and our newspapers. Let them support this proud national voice, for the sake of the entire nation, and not for our sake. Let there be established in Amman a center for the study of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the Arab world. For the light of righteousness must wipe out the dark of wrongfulness. And Bani-Hashem must be the vanguard, for their grandfather Hashem was the first to forge a pact among them and protect the caravans of Quraysh [tribe that ruled in the time of Muhammad].

And their grandfather 'Abd-al-Muttalib was the first to provide Mecca with fresh water and to paint al-Ka'bah in gold. Their history is a record of sacrifice for their nation. Never did they seek personal gain or the glory of palaces. Whenever they set out, it was to support their divine faith, true to their pious spirit and heedful of the honor bestowed upon them by God's Holy Book:

And Allah only wishes to remove all abomination from you, ye members of the family, to make you pure and spotless. [Koranic verse]

I say this because some are prone to forgetfulness. The blood of our martyrs is sacred. Our ancestors' vision is constantly before us, and our struggle is permanently engraved on the strong arms of our people. Along with our nation, we have remonstrated against those who have done wrong, guided those who have erred, and helped those in need. We have refused to support wrongful occupation or liberation that infringes on sovereignty. We have warned against the designs and conspiracies of foreigners, and have always sought to please God. My conscience has been truly vindicated in that I have held fast to the pledge I made to you 40 years ago, when I said: I have pledged to shun all repose in working for your prosperity and building our dear homeland, in which we lived and in which we shall die. From that moment, I have been convinced that our destiny on this blessed land is to serve the nation; that the Hashemite Jordanian state is the vanguard of a new Arab era imbued with the scent of freedom, justice, and democracy; and that the Jordanian people perceive the dream to be at hand while others see it a distant prospect, and that they represent the legitimacy of the Great Revolt through the blood of their martyrs shed over an area extending from Bab-al-Wad to al-Karamah, from al-Yarmuk to al-Tafilah, and through their concern for the poor, for orphans and for prisoners of war. I am certain that they will be amply rewarded for their noble patience and endeavors.

Dear brother citizens, no sooner had one journey ended than another began. The history of this homeland has been one of tireless activity since the time the martyred King al-Sharif 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn laid the cornerstone for the illustrious al-Salt School, handed over the banner to the first battalion of our Arab army, and recited the opening chapter of the Koran on the first of its martyrs. The martyred king used the following words to characterize this army: This army does not shame its commanders, does not dishearten its generals, does not let down its people, does not hold back, and does not shirk the responsibility of protecting its rights or those of its country. The army is only an army. However, it is the country's sword, its shield, its pride, its voice, its whip, the bane of its enemies, and the apple of the king's eye.

It has been so since the time the king—may God rest his soul—upheld the banners of Arab Jordan, where no one is stronger than the oppressed until their rights are restored, or weaker than the oppressors until usurped rights are taken from them; where its people stand united while others are plagued by disarray; where they advance when others hold back; where they keep up the struggle to ensure that none in the nation's ranks remains poor, afraid, or downtrodden.

This state of affairs is not too much to expect of Jordan or Jordanians. For God blessed this land in His holy book; honored it with the blood of the first martyr of Islamic conquests in 'Afratah, Mu'tah, and al-Yarmuk; and chose it as a springboard for the call of Al al-Bayt, as al-Humaymah embraced the nascent drive, through which Bani-Hashem regained their God-given honor of leading this nation, for God willed it to be a spacious

stamping ground for their horses as they rushed at the turn of this century to restore the nation's freedom, glory, and pride.

Beloved citizens, and here we meet again in Amman, my heart having yearned for you. Yet I tempered this yearning with patience, and so my heart rests at ease. This happened when you advanced from every corner of this homeland, which is great with you, from east and west of the river, to surround me with your noble and sincere emotions and deck the country with a sea of your proud national sentiments, your magnanimity, and chivalry.

And here we are at the threshold of a renewed promise of constant work, for this is an era when right is loudly heralded; an era enabling us to break out of the cycle of agonizing pain and excruciating agony, to see the warmth of the new times, where we would cover the nation with the mantle of pride and realize the great dream embodying the message. We shall not concede a single grain of our national soil or the nation's rights. We have a date with the dream of union, in tribute to the soul of the revered leader of the Great Arab Revolt so that the entire nation may advance toward a world filled with justice and freedom, rather than one marked by injustice and oppression; and toward a world characterized by consultation rather than despotism. Besides, we have the right to renew the call loudly and strongly across Arab lands, and to triumph over silence with the glow of our positions so that our call may resound in the name of the nation and the message, in the name of Bani-Hashem, and in the name of free Jordanians and honorable Arabs as well.

Dear citizens in this beloved homeland, this is my message to you as I continue the blessed march with you. Let the vision be clear, the determination genuine, the course rational, the aspirations human. Be as I have always known you to be—true nationalists, tolerant believers, and strong fighters. Close your ranks so that you may present your message to your nation. Cast out the selfish, the defeatists, the spiteful, the ungrateful, and the oppressors. In the name of your nation, launch a new and comprehensive Arab movement in education and culture, in politics, in agriculture and industry, in the protection of rights, and in the drive to liberate ourselves from dictatorships, totalitarian regimes, and rule by a single faction. Preach freedom to all Arabs, and march on with God's blessing. Above all, read the words of God in His holy book: And do thou be patient, for thy patience is but from God; nor grieve over them: And distress not thyself because of their plots. For God is with those who restrain themselves, and those who do good. [Koranic verses]

May Almighty God keep you in His care and grant you success. He is capable of answering our prayers.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Reaction to Clinton Election Victory Continues

Parliament Speakers Comment

JN0511074292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Nov 92 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman Safadi]

[Text] Amman—While not shedding any tears over the defeat of George Bush in the U.S. presidential elections, Jordanians are not celebrating the rise of Bill Clinton to the echelon of American power either.

As far as the Arab World is concerned, Jordanian politicians say, Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton are two faces of the same coin, and no major positive changes in American policy could be expected towards the Arab World and the Arab-Israeli conflict with Mr. Clinton in the White House.

At worst, they say, America will tilt more towards Israel. At best, the United States will maintain what many described as its biased policy vis-a-vis the region and its issues.

A different U.S. approach to the region will have to be prompted by reorganisation of the Arab house, not changes in Washington, they said.

"The American foreign policy responds to the firmness with which other peoples press for their rights," Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat told the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday. "Whether America's president is Bush or Clinton is irrelevant because people's rights are not usually given to them. They have to work to obtain them," he said.

Maintaining that President Bush and President-Elect Clinton are equally supportive of Israel, members of parliament say the only difference between the two is the degree of openness in which they express their pro-Israeli stands.

Clinton is frank enough to say that he supports Israel," Mr. 'Arabiyat said. "Others are more ambiguous."

Mr. Bush was promoting Israeli interests when he helped launch the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Madrid last year, said Islamist Member of Parliament Yusuf al-'Azim. Mr. Clinton will follow on that policy to further protect and help the Jewish state, he said.

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir saw no seachange in American Middle East policy under a Clinton administration, saying that changes in the leadership will not dramatically recolour a policy processed and adopted by institutions.

The president-elect seems interested in the Middle East peace process, [said] Dr. Abu-Jabir, voicing expectations of a continuation of American commitment to the peace process, which he said had developed its own momentum.

However, Dr. Abu-Jabir stressed in an interview with Jordan Television the necessity of continued American recognitions of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 as the basis for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Other Jordanian observers saw the Democratic Party's dependence on minorities, including American Jews, for its grassroot support as a reason for concern.

Warning that the Democratic Party is more supportive of Israel, former Minister of Health Mamduh al-'Abbadi called on Arab parties to the U.S. brokered peace talks to formulate a new strategy to face the potential pro-Israeli tilt in the new American leadership.

"All of us know that the minorities, including American Jews, provide the electoral base for the Democratic Party and we have thus to be more careful in dealing with it," Dr. al-'Abbadi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The leftist Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) said the Clinton victory requires that the Arab side to the peace talks reassess their positions in the negotiations.

Stopping short of calling for abandoning the talks, the JPDP said Arab negotiators should refrain from making concessions to Israel because nothing "justifies giving up our rights."

"Under the Bush or the Clinton administration, America will only heed the demands of those who turn the balance of power against its Israeli ally," it said in a statement.

But while stressing that American policy will continue to be pro-Israeli, Deputy al-'Azim said he hoped the new U.S. president will reorient the American foreign policy so that "it shows some respect for humanity and support for justice."

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad al-Lawzi also expressed hope the new U.S. administration would work to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Calling on the new American leadership to fulfil its reponsibility of achieving Mideast peace on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, Mr. al-Lawzi demanded in a statement to Petra that the U.S. escalate its efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The election of Clinton is no cause for jubilation and the defeat of Bush is no reason for happiness," said Mr. al-'Azim. By the end of the day, he said, the United States will continue to serve Israeli interests.

Dr. 'Arabiyat said he was also indifferent to the outcome of the elections. "It is not a question of individuals," steering or leaving the helm of American politics, he said.

The Arabs and Muslims have to get their house in order and build their strengh to fulfil their rights without depending on anyone else, he said. Neither Bush nor Clinton will secure Arab rights, he said.

Changes Predicted

JN0511135592 Amman THE STAR in English 5-11 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "America Under Clinton"]

[Text] The defeat of President George Bush in the US presidential elections this week marks not only the end of a 12-year Republican hold on the White House, but also the removal of Cold War politics from the American political lexicon. Mr. Bush is the last Cold War warrior, and with his eviction from office a whole genre of US politicians who saw the world in a polarized form will now disappear. The results of Tuesday's elections were to be expected; what was not expected however was the scale of Mr. Bush's defeat.

Taking over from Ronald Reagan at a time when the Communist world was gasping its last breath of air, President Bush soon put his experience in Cold War politics to action and speeded up the process of disintegration in the Soviet empire under Gorbachev. When Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait, President Bush took a course of action that resulted in the destruction of both Iraq and Kuwait and cemented America's dominance over the Gulf region and the whole of the Middle East.

But like many Cold War relics, such as intercontinental ballistic missiles, super bombers and Star Wars battle machines, Mr. Bush has no practical function as a politician in the post-Cold War world of today. The Reagan approach of bankrupting the Soviet Union into submission turned the United States into the world's largest indebted nation. The Reagan-Bush years left the United States an exhausted and bewildered superpower, where economic dominance and even political influence in world affairs had shifted to Europe and South East Asian countries.

Under President Clinton, the United States will try to cope with the new global rules of the game; global economies, global politics and inter-regional competition. Mr. Clinton belongs to a different generation of Americans; those who are not World War II veterans, had objected to America's adventure in Vietnam and who see a new role for America in today's world, especially after the end of the superpower struggle.

It is too early to cast doubts on the fate of the Middle East peace process under President Clinton. It is true that President Bush and his administration had a strong moral commitment to supporting the process. It is also true that the new administration will have to concentrate on the domestic agenda and play a lesser role in international affairs. But Mr. Clinton will soon realize that an isolationist America will not be able to override its economic problems at home. It must remain engaged in world politics. The question is what kind of role will that be?

We believe America's contribution to world peace and stability will increase in the coming years as global politics takes over Cold War dogma. The Middle East, while facing internal problems that have nothing to do with who sits in the White House, will remain high on the agenda of any serious US secretary of state. It is our hope that the new vision of the world, and of America's role in it, will replace classical and outdated views of the Middle East and its old problems.

The peace process remains an American sponsored one for the time being. In a few months the talks may be moved to the region away from Washington. But for this to happen, real progress must first take place. The United States should continue to support the process on the basis of UN resolutions and international laws. Siding with one party against the other is a tactic of Cold War politics. It should not happen under Mr. Clinton's administration.

More Press Reaction Detailed

JN0611064492

[Editorial Report] Jordanian dailies published on 4 November did not carry any reports on the results of the U.S. elections, probably because the final results were not available at press time. All newspaper commentaries dealt with their expectations and their views on which of the two candidates would win. However, SAWT AL-SHA'B and AL-RA'Y reprinted their 4 November issues as second editions, changing only the lead story on their front pages affirming Clinton's victory. The SAWT AL-SHA'B banner headline reads: "As of 0600 This Morning, Clinton Wins and Bush Sustains Harsh Defeat." The AL-RA'Y banner headline reads: "Clinton Wins, Bush Falls."

In their 5 November issues, the Arabic dailies AL-RA'Y, AL- DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B; the weekly AKHBAR AL-USBU'; and the English-language daily JORDAN TIMES carry extensive reports and comments as well as local, Arab, and world reactions to the results of the U.S. presidential election. The papers carry front-page banner headlines on Clinton's election and Bush's "failure." Some of the headlines read as follows:

SAWT AL-SHA'B: "Cautious World Relief on Clinton's Election."

AKHBAR AL-'USBU': "Bush Falls, Saddam Steadfast."

AL-DUSTUR: "The United States Enters 'An Era of Change.'"

AL-RA'Y: "Peace Partners Evaluate U.S. Election Results."

The AL-RA'Y editorial brackets Bush, Thatcher, and Gorbachev as three leaders who have gone into "oblivion" after the Gulf war.

All of the eight articles, comments, and columns by regular writers on AL-RA'Y's page 18, are devoted to U.S. election results. Most of the writers are critical of Bush's policies in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. Writing in his AL-RA'Y "Highlights" column, well-known economist Fahd al-Fanik says that "Bush launched the first American war against the Arabs and his hands are stained with Arab blood." He says that Bush's war against Iraq could have been avoided. He opines that while Clinton is not a friend of the Arabs, "his hands are not stained with Arab blood."

In his article, columnist Sultan Hattab takes a different view of the U.S. elections. He blames the Arabs for considering the U.S. elections merely a personal victory or personal defeat. He says: "We talk of democracy in the West as if we talk about a winner or a loser. We applaud the newcomer and gloat over the outgoing man. We are supposed to understand that the U.S. political establishment is the one that removes this man and elects that. It is exercising democracy for its own benefit and not for ours."

Another writer, Mahmud al-Rimawi, voices Arab "wariness" about the new president and hopes for wisdom and justice to prevail and a "balanced policy will replace election interests and calculations."

In its editorial, AKHBAR AL-USBU' says: "The curse of history will pursue Bush forever as a man who caused destruction to the world and for his crimes against Iraq and the Arab nation." However, the editorial hopes that "the new administration will take the side of oppressed people and lay the foundation of the new world order, free of the law of the jungle and the language of personal grudges and hatred."

The SAWT AL-SHA'B editorial affirms that "no one can deny or ignore that the United States, during the eras of the Republican and Democratic parties, disavowed the just causes of the Arab nation, particularly the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights and had sided with the Israeli enemy, provided it with funds and weapons, and enabled it to maintain its military edge." The paper then highlights how the Bush administration "played a great role in harming the Arab nation and brought about serious divisions and disagreements in its ranks" and had also "inflicted destruction and catastrophe on fraternal Iraq as a result of the 30-country aggression that the United States led during former President George Bush's era."

The paper then says "Now that Mr. Bill Clinton has won and the Democratic Party reassumes power, the Arabs hope to overcome the differences of the past with all the negative and hostile relations that this has entailed at one time or another and work to turn a new page in relations of cooperation on new bases of mutual respect for the two parties' interests."

The only other column dealing with the U.S. elections in SAWT AL- SHA'B is an article on page 20 by Dr. Jamal al-Sha'ir, who says: "I am certain that the U.S. Administration under Clinton and the Democrats will review the U.S. policies in the Arab region and the nearby

areas" and that the most important policy reassessment will be "that dealing with the Palestinian cause and the Gulf issue in general, and U.S. relations with Iraq in its present state."

The writer then calls "on those working in politics, the press, and the intellectuals to formulate a visualization of the Jordanian role over the next four years, which might extend another four years after that. I call for a dialogue in the immediate future on all that has to do with Jordan by opening channels of communications with the team of the U.S. president-elect, even before he assumes power".

In its editorial, AL-DUSTUR voices its apprehension about Clinton's victory due to the "several statements, announcements, and pledges made to Israel by the candidate who won the presidential race."

Columns by known writers in Al-DUSTUR's inside pages comment on Clinton's victory and wonder what his foreign policy will be like. In their comments, the columnists do not criticize Bush's policies but devote their attention to the future. In a column on page 18, writer Ya'qub Jabir, speaking about Clinton's policy toward the Middle East says: "Most probably, Clinton will follow in Democratic President Jimmy Carter's footsteps, who was the godfather of the Camp David accords, and Clinton might, as he had stated before his election, appoint Carter as a U.S. mediator between the Arabs and Israel."

In a column by Muhammad Ka'wash, the writer says "we do not expect any change in Washington's policy toward our causes. The matter has been settled from George Washington to George Bush. Enmity to the Arabs and placating the Jews are among the most important traits of a U.S. president, and Clinton abided by this during the presidential campaign."

Salih al-Qallab in a column on page 26 says: "We can only make conjectures now as to the policy of the new president." The writer wonders what policy Clinton will adopt in the Gulf. He says "the feelings of joy by some over George Bush's defeat and Bill Clinton's victory are understandable and justified. But those with such feelings should not expect that once he assumes power, the new president will order the lifting of the siege on Iraq" because U.S. policy is dictated by U.S. interests and not by individuals.

Officials Comment on Peace Negotiations Agenda

JN0511083292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Nov 92 pp 1,5

[By Sa'idah al-Kilani and P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Many Jordanian politicians are oblivious to the fact that Jordanian and Israeli negotiators had worked out a draft common agenda for peace talks, and those who have read the draft are sceptical that the negotiations would lead to any equitable Arab-Israeli peace.

Officials say the agreement on the agenda, which is not yet formally approved by the government, is progress but in itself it does not mean much except that it outlines the objectives of the Jordanian-Israeli discussions and the pathway to achieve them, Jordanian officials say.

They also add that the very purpose of Arab-Israeli peace talks could not be served without defining the very objectives of the negotiations and how to achieve them. And as such, they point out, agreement between Jordan and Israel on a common agenda is only a milestone in a very long journey ahead.

The officials point to item A in the draft agenda which states that the goal of the negotiations is to arrive at a "just, lasting solution and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians and Israel" as meaning that any peace between Israel and Jordan can only be achieved in the context of a settlement on Arab-Israeli fronts.

The government has not made any formal comment on the agenda, which was agreed on by the Israeli and Jordanian delegates before the seventh round of bilateral talks took an 11-day recess last week.

Ironically, quite a few members of the Lower House of Parliament appeared not to know anything about the common agenda at all, four days after it was published in local papers. Some of them asked the JORDAN TIMES to give them a copy before making any comment while others asked for more time so that they could locate a text.

Officials say that the points agreed upon by the delegates of the two sides are not final and that the governments have to ratify them, but they confirmed that a text of the agenda published by the JORDAN TIMES last Thursday was the "correct version."

The opponents of the peace process have started picking on the agenda, reiterating their rejection not only of the draft but also of the entire peace process.

"If it took negotiators one whole year to come up with a draft agenda, then I wonder how long it would take them to negotiate the implementation of the items therein?" was the comment of Ishaq al-Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a leading activist of the Muslim Brotherhood, which opposes any negotiation with Israel.

"In the first place, the negotiations do not have a solid foundation," said the senator. Regardless of the agenda, he said, "I don't think that Israel would return one inch of Palestine, particularly that the U.S. would always support Israel."

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the spiritual guide of the Brotherhood, said Israel "should not have an inch of Palestinian land."

"The Israelis are just playing games with the Arabs to let them feel that they are willing to negotiate peace," he said.

Quoting from the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, Shaykh Khalifah asserted that Jihad was the only way to resolve the conflict with Israel. "We don't think that the entire peace process will be fruitful," he said.

'Isa Madanat, a member of the Lower House representing al-Karak and a leading communist activist, said he had closely studied the draft agenda and had discerned positive as well as negative points in it.

"Two articles could be considered positive," he said, referring to the stipulations that the two sides would seek "steps to arrive at a state of peace based on resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects," and that both sides would seek a Middle East "free from weapons of mass destruction, conventional and nonconventional weapons."

"This goal is to be achieved in the context of a comprehensive, lasting and stable peace characterised by the renunciation of the use of force, reconciliation and openness," the article says.

According to Mr. Madanat "some of the other articles are ambiguous."

He cited as an example the reference to "refugees and displaced persons," which calls for "an agreed just solution to the problem of refugees and displaced persons in accordance with international law," and underlined that it does not make any reference to U.N. Security Council Resolution 194.

The resolution emphasises the right of Palestinians displaced by the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 to return to their homes or to receive compensation.

Noting that Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestinian refugees displaced during the 1948 and 1967 wars as well as returnees from the Gulf following the war over Kuwait, Mr. Madanat emphasised that the implementation of Resolution 194 was of paramount importance to the Kingdom.

Reports in the Israeli and European press say that the intention of Israel and the U.S. is to "compensate" those for whom Resolution 194 is applicable.

Israel, which reels back everytime the Palestinian right of return is mentioned saying it questions the very basis of the existence of the Jewish state, argues that Resolution 194 is not among the terms of reference for the peace process.

Noting the Israeli argument, observers said it would have been only wishful thinking to expect the Israelis to agree even to an implicit reference to the resolution in the agenda.

Fakhri Qa'war, a leftist deputy representing the Christian seat in the Third District of Amman argued that no good was going to come out of negotiating with Israel against the backdrop of the given disunity in the Arab scene and therefore reaching or not reaching an agenda with the Jewish state was irrelevant.

"The present conditions under which we live do not encourage us to negotiate with Israel since (the Jewish state) holds all the cards and the Arab side is in a weak position," said Mr. Qa'war, a member of the Democratic Bloc in the Lower House. "Any accord with Israel at this point in time will not serve our interests in any way."

Mafraq Deputy 'Ab-al-Karim al-Dughmi, another member of the Democratic Bloc, asserted that the "whole peace process is an exercise which offers concessions to the Israelis."

"The Arabs have not seen any favourable outcome of the process since it was launched in Madrid" with an international conference in October last year, he said. "There is no Israeli commitment to the established principles, which were accepted by all Arab governments."

"The negotiations are moving in the wrong direction," said Mr. al-Dughmi.

"The Jordanian delegation to the peace talks is not qualified enough to conduct political negotiations," he contended. "They have to exert more pressure in order to come up with better gains."

By and large editorials and columns in local newspapers have welcomed the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on a common agenda. So have officials who insist on anonymity.

"Jordan and Israel should have reached agreement on the agenda during the first round of bilaterals since there cannot be any negotiations without any agenda," observed a senior official. "It should not have taken one year to be worked out, as it did since Madrid."

According to a well-placed analyst, the common agenda is "only a piece of paper and I would not attach much importance to it in terms of it representing a consolidated Jordanian-Israeli agreement."

"The accord represents the limits to which the Israelis were willing to go from the limitations they had imposed on themselves from the very beginning," added the analyst.

Diplomats who closely follow the peace process agreed with this thinking and some of them said Israel and the U.S., for their own purposes, were trying to present the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on an agenda itself as a major break-through.

Israeli ministers, commentators and media have been highlighting that it was the first time that an Arab country—except Egypt, which negotiated a separate peace with the Jewish state in 1979—has said that it was willing to enter a peace treaty with Israel and portraying the Jordanian-Israeli agenda as just one step short of a peace agreement.

"The U.S. and Israel are trying to hype (over-emphasise) it a little," observed a diplomat. "Obviously they believe that highlighting the smallest step in the Jordanian-Israeli track would serve their own interests."

"The agenda is something the two sides have agreed on," he noted. "It does not set any definite shape for a peace settlement. Far from resembling any vague shape of a peace treaty, the agenda in fact is full of so much of complex stuff that it would be a long, long time before Israel and Jordan would be even near any definite agreement."

PLO Official on Conditions for Progress in Talks

JN0411073592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 92 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—A deadlock continues in the Palestinian-Israeli track of Middle East peace talks as Israelis persist in their rejection of a Palestinian demand that would link the proposed transitional period of self-government to a final solution based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official says.

According to Sulayman al-Najjab a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, no progress could be achieved in this track unless the Palestinians extract an Israeli admission of the applicability of U.N. Security Council resolutions that the Palestinian territories taken over by Israel in 1967 are "occupied territories" not just "territories" as Israel refers to them.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES this week, Mr. al-Najjab also said that establishing the applicability of 242 would solve another point of contention over the "geographic jurisdiction" of the proposed Palestinian interim government.

According to Mr. al-Najjab, Israel is defining the geographic jurisdiction within the framework of Palestinian autonomy as being one over territories under Israeli military rule, rather than territories occupied in 1967, which would exclude Jerusalem and Israel settlements in the West Bank.

"The Israelis want us to accept a definition which would force us to give away more than half of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967," Mr. al-Najjab said, adding that "we will not give up Jerusalem."

He added that Palestinians were now considering calling for the reconvening of the Madrid conference to assess the progress of negotiations during the past year, an option which would require the approval of all parties concerned.

If such a meeting is approved, Mr. al-Najjab said, another time limit for the initiation of self-government for Palestinians would be set after the initial date of Nov. 1 which elapsed with no significant progress or agreement to that end.

"We have to protect our people from further Israeli delays," Mr. al-Najjab said referring to former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's declaration after he lost the Israeli elections in June that he followed a policy that would have kept the talks going for another 10 years. "What guarantee do I have now that (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin will not do the same, especially that his halo of peace is now obviously evaporating?"

The Palestinians hope that a reconvening of the Madrid conference would allow them to renegotiate the terms of agreement originally dictated by the Israeli Likud government last year and which denied the United Nations a prominent role in the talks.

According to Mr. al-Najjab, there have been indications that the Rabin government may accept a larger U.N. role in the bilateral talks after the international body was given a full member status in the multilaterals.

He said that this could be achieved through returning to the accepted reference to the whole process of Middle East peace efforts which includes U.N. Resolution 338 that clearly stipulates that negotiations between parties concerned—aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East—be conducted "under proper auspices."

But allowing for a larger U.N. role would need a redefinition of the terms of reference for the Palestinian-Israeli track which currently specifies that the solution to the Palestinian problem should come in two separate stages linking only the final solution to the U.N. resolution but not the five-year transitional stage.

Chief Delegate Interviewed on Multilateral Talks

JN0511081592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Washington (Petra)—Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral talks on economic development said the discussions which concluded in Paris recently were characterised by an atmosphere of optimism and full understanding of the nature of the peace process.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, following his return from Paris to Washington Tuesday, Dr. al-Tarawinah said the working group's last meeting was different from the preceeding one because of the participation of a full United Nations' delegation and the presence of Israel at the talks.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said Syria and Lebanon did not attend because they would not participate until basic progress was achieved in the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks.

Their positions were declared from the beginning, and we agree in principle with our brethren in Syria and Lebanon that we will not implement any partial solution before just, lasting and comprehensive peace is achieved in the region," he said.

"But we differ with them in views on attending these meetings, because we believe the multilateral talks are an important forum attended by several states as representatives of the world nations, and the Arabs should not waste the chance to affirm their positions and principled stands and should prepare for a better future for the region after the Middle East problem is resolved," he added.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said Arab delegations participating in the meeting—Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates—held a meeting before the start of the working group to coordinate their stands and discuss papers presented by various countries. He stressed that the Arab sides were in agreement on the philosophy of the meeting, and their commitment to link the bilateral and multilateral talks. He also affirmed the need for achieving progress in the bilateral talks as a precondition for discussing in detail any of the multilateral meetings' issues.

He said Jordan's working paper at the meeting was an extension to the Jordanian working paper presented a the previous meeting in Brussels. This paper, he said, had underlined three basic principles. He said, the first of these principles was to deal with the peace talks as a comprehensive, integrated process at its various stages. The second principle, he said, deals with future regional economic cooperation in the stage after achieving peace. He said this principle stresses the need to tackle structural malfunctions in the economies of the region.

In this respect, Jordan has presented a briefing on its efforts and the positive results of the economic reform programme in the Kingdom and has offered general ideas related to foreign investments, trade, mobilising financial resources and differences in the incomes of the region's states as a result of foreign financiers' bias to Israel.

He said the third principle focused on humanitarian dimension, which is the basis of development. "We stressed in this field that peace is between peoples and that the humanitarian dimension is the basis of development, thus the whole social 'bundle' should be taken into consideration," said Dr. al-Tarawinah.

Other papers presented at the meeting included a Japanese suggestion for encouraging tourism and a U.S. idea on activating the training process for Palestinians in their transitional period.

He said more proposals were presented by the French delegation on developing the transport and communications sectors, the Egyptian delegation on establishing a Middle East bank, and the European Community on establishing cooperation ties between the cities, universities and private sector companies of the Meditarranean region and Europe.

He said Jordan responded to these proposals, emphasising its desire to discuss problems facing the region's peoples and stressing the need to reduce differences in income between its countries.

"But we are still in a transitional period between war and peace, and did not yet go through the gate of peace. Although we are serious in our endeavours, Israel did not yet take the basic strategic steps to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and security council resolutions 242 and 338," he concluded.

MP's Urge King To Halt Trial of Deputies

NC0511160492 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Amman, Nov 5 (AFP)—Muslim Brotherhood MPs on Thursday urged King Husayn of Jordan to halt the trial of two fundamentalist deputies accused of plotting to overthrow the regime.

The Brotherhood, which has 22 members in the 80-seat assembly, called for a "royal decree to halt the government's ... [ellipsis as received] trial, which does not conform with the period of democratization underway in the country."

In a statement received by AFP, the deputies urged the government "to end this tragedy."

A prosecutor called last Saturday for the death sentence against independent MPs Yaq'ub Qirrish and Layth Shubaylat, who have argued before the state security court that the charges were fabricated as part of a political vendetta.

They are accused of belonging to an illegal underground network plotting to overthrow King Husayn's regime and possession of arms and explosives. Two merchants are co-defendants in the trial which opened on September 29.

The court is expected to give its verdict on Tuesday.

Interior Minister Comments on Talks in Tehran

JN3010164292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Oct 92

[Text] Minister of Interior Jawdat al-Subul has returned to Amman from Tehran where he participated in the meetings of the subcommittee on illegal drug trafficking and related issues in the Near and Middle East.

The minister told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that he met with the Iranian interior minister and a number of ranking Iranian officials and discussed bilateral relations. The two sides agreed to improve and develop these relations on the basis of mutual respect and understanding of the special circumstances of each country.

Al-Hirawi Sends Messages to Clinton, Bush

NC0611103592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has congratulated Bill Clinton on his election as the U.S. president.

In a message he sent to Clinton, President al-Hirawi expressed hope that the good relations between Lebanon and the United States will continue. He also expressed his appreciation of the new president's statements on continuing the peace process in the Middle East.

President al-Hirawi also sent a personal message to President George Bush in appreciation of his efforts to help Lebanon and his endeavors to resolve the Middle East crisis.

Al-Hariri Returns From Damascus Talks

NC0511204892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening from Damascus following talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Informed sources said President al-Asad met privately with Prime Minister al-Hariri for four hours, during which they discussed the current Lebanese situation after the formation of the new Government and the period following a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies. They discussed regional and international situations in light of recent developments, particularly the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington in the coming few days and the need to coordinate positions between the two countries' delegations.

The same sources described the atmosphere of the talks as positive.

Following his arrival in Beirut, Prime Minister al-Hariri met members of the ministerial committee entrusted with drafting the government statement and discussed the statement's broad lines and the date for a cabinet meeting to approve it.

Labor Minister Discusses Government Priorities

NC0611103892 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, in Beirut, by radio correspondent Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Minister, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Amin] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, as a member of the current government and the minister in charge of south Lebanon in the previous one, what are the priorities of the new Rafiq al-Hariri-led government?

[Al-Amin] The new government has been formulating its program. I am a member of the committee that is drawing up the cabinet's policy statement to be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies to get a confidence vote. This program is based on the following foundations: The first is liberating the south from Israeli occupation, giving citizens in the occupied areas and areas nearby the means to steadfastness, adhering to the Lebanese Government's and people's absolute right to resist the occupation, seeking to liberate their land by every possible means in line with the UN Charter and human rights principles, and implementing UN resolutions on south Lebanon, specifically Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. The second priority is to return all the Lebanese citizens displaced by the civil war to their homes. The third goal is to continue reestablishing the state's authority over the entire Lebanese territory. The fourth is connected with relations with Syria and implementing the Treaty of Brotherhood and Cooperation between the two countries. The fourth [as heard] is changing and improving the ancient and currently deteriorating administrative structure in Lebanon. A basic issue is the economic and financial situation. The new Lebanese Government has a thorough program to revive the economy. These are its prominent points, which the government will submit to the Chamber of Deputies to get a confidence vote. The cabinet is expected to seek such a vote next week.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, can we say the new Lebanese Government under Rafiq al-Hariri will focus primarily on the economy?

[Al-Amin] The government under His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri certainly regards economic revival and surmounting the existing economic difficulties resulting from the war as its basic task. It seeks to rebuild the Lebanese economic infrastructure ruined by war. This is the basic task. His Excellency Prime Minister al-Hariri was chosen to lead the new government because he has much economic experience. He is a successful businessman, not merely in Lebanon, but also on the Arab and international scenes.

[Al-Jundi] Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, labor minister and one of the Lebanese Government's prominent members and the official in charge of south Lebanon in the previous government, let us move to the political part of this dialogue, to the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations held in Washington within the Arab-Israeli talks, now in their seventh round [passage indistinct].

[Al-Amin, in progress] ...regrettably, we have not reached a minimum of understanding with the Israelis about how to proceed with the negotiations. But the new Lebanese Government is determined to invigorate the talks to achieve the desired objectives based on U.S.

President Bush's initiative, trading land for peace. With this perspective, the new Lebanese Government will continue to insist that UN resolutions be implemented, particularly Security Council 425 calling for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. As for signing a peace treaty, the new Lebanese Government links any peace treaty with Israel with plans for overall Arab-Israeli peace. This means that the new government certainly rejects concluding any security agreement or unilateral peace treaty without first resolving the basic Arab issue.

[Al-Jundi] Minister, Israel refers to some security concerns it has regarding south Lebanon. How willing is the new Lebanese Government to deal with Israel on this issue?

[Al-Amin] The new government believes that Israel's war actions against Lebanese territory are part of its ongoing aggression against the country and its policy. If Israel uses the pretext that the Lebanese resistance carries out military operations against the Israeli occupation forces, this issue will form the basis of the Lebanese Government's action on the understanding that the UN Charter has a specific provision stating that nations the territories of which are occupied have the right to exercise every form of resistance, including military action, against this occupation. We believe that to achieve peace in south Lebanon, Israel must withdraw and implement UN resolutions. When this happens, the Lebanese Government and, specifically, the Lebanese Army will assume responsibility for security on Lebanese territory. This will lead to real and solid peace in that area.

[Al-Jundi] We end this dialogue by thanking 'Abdallah al-Amin, Lebanese labor minister and the minister in charge of south Lebanon in the former government. We welcome him again as guest of the Voice of the Arabs. Thank you, Minister.

[Al-Amin] Thank you and thanks to the Voice of the Arabs, its listeners, and correspondents.

Phalangist Leader Discusses Opposition Role

PM0511142092 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Nov 92 p 22, 23

[Interview with Karim Paqraduni, secretary general of the Lebanese Phalangist Party, by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] The arrival of Attorney Nibah Birri as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and Shaykh Rafiq al-Hariri as prime minister represents the launch of a new political phase. How do you read the features of this phase?

[Paqraduni] We are in a stage of restructuring the country. And Nabih Birri's assumption of his post as speaker of the chamber is part of this restructuring process. It is also an indication that we are in a new phase whose features have not yet become clear. But its orientations are clear regarding the emergence of a new political class, namely, the postwar class. What we are seeing today is the outcome of the war. Al-Hariri has been appointed because he is needed for reconstruction. In brief, we are today reaping the political results of the military war. This is one point. As for the other point, which concerns moving to the next phase, it must be said here that is would be very dangerous for Nabih Birri—in his capacity as speaker of the chamber—to act as if he were a party or militia leader. The best he can do is act as a unifying and reconciling speaker like his predecessor Husayn al-Husayni. [passage omitted] Regarding Rafiq al-Hariri, without doubt he could provide an answer to the economic part of the crisis. But we realize that the cause of the economic crisis is political. The challenge facing Al-Hariri is for him to be both politically and economically successful. This challenge is open, because no matter how many economic problems Al-Hariri manages to solve, the crisis in Lebanon is in its essence political and economic. And if a person fails to tackle the cause, he will not consequently be able to tackle the results. He might manage to develop or absorb the results, but not tackle them. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Is there any possibility of the Phalangist Party's joining the government in certain circumstances, since it is refusing to do so? And what is its program for the stage ahead?

[Paqraduni] The Phalangist Party position is not to participate in the government, and it will seek to form a shadow Islamic-Christian government which will seek to represent 80 percent of the people who did not participate in the elections. It will also seek to have a working program with which to confront the existing government. In my view, there is a big split today between popular Lebanon and official Lebanon. The Phalangist Party is trying to represent popular Lebanon, whereas the official government is almost exclusively representing official Lebanon. This is the picture. This is why I believe that the opposition option adopted by the Phalangist Party is a necessary line for correcting things in Lebanon. One of the reasons for the failure of President al-Hirawi's regime over the past three years is the nonexistence of opposition. This is because in the absence of opposition the regime finds things easy and thus relaxes. Opposition is the real guarantee which keeps the regime alert and constantly active. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] You said that you will seek to form a shadow government and a working program with which to confront the current government. Have you started to work in that direction, and what have you achieved?

[Paqraduni] We submitted a working paper to opposition parties which included our position on this phase. We are waiting until the government is formed in order to define the boundaries of our opposition. Without doubt, the abduction of comrade Khawand nearly a month ago confused us but did not cause us to abandon our plan concerning setting up a national opposition front for opposition parties to rally around. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Cables Congratulations to Clinton

JN0511170992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 92

["Text" of "cable of congratulations" from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton; date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of your election as president of the United States of America, it pleases me to extend to you my congratulations, as well as my wishes of success. I would like to express the hope that the improvement in Syrian-U.S. ties, which began during the rule of your predecessor, will continue under your rule in the interest of our two countries in order to foster understanding between them. It is my certain belief that our cooperation to render the Middle East peace process, which is sponsored by the United States and the Russian Federation, a success will continue on the basis of the principles upon which this process was based, to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in our region, in accordance with the formula of trading land for peace, as well as Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you continued good health and the U.S. people prosperity.

Clinton Remarks on Israel Called 'Election Propaganda'

JN0511154392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria has never wagered on anything except its nation and this nation's capabilities and resources. It has always maintained that effective Arab solidarity and the use of potential is the only way to restore territories and rights. That is why it has constantly sought to unify the Arab position and crystallize an Arab strategy aimed at achieving a comprehensive solution, on all fronts, to the conflict with Israel, and also at restoring rights out of the conviction that no single inch of territory should be conceded.

When it responded favorably to the peace efforts, Syria did so after the U.S. Administration had committed itself to the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, and to a comprehensive settlement as well, after it had made public statements rejecting Israeli settlement policies, and also after Syria had received assurances that Resolution 242 applies to all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan.

We are saying this against the backdrop of the change witnessed in the United States as a result of the U.S. presidential election defeat of President George Bush and the victory of his Democratic Party adversary Bill Clinton. We are also saying this against the backdrop of statements Clinton made during the election campaign to win over the votes of Jewish Americans and the support of the Israeli lobby as well. Even though President Bush agreed to grant Israel $10 billion in loan guarantees, not to mention sophisticated weapons free of charge, Clinton went further than this when he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and promised to provide Tel Aviv rulers with unlimited support.

As for us, we are inclined to view such statements as part of an election propaganda campaign. We will judge the new U.S. Administration by its actions, and also by how far it goes in its commitment to the peace process, which must be governed by the rules of international legitimacy. However, caution is required. The Arabs' prime concern must be to close ranks, to coordinate positions, to unify their perspectives and stands, to show adherence to their rights in full, not to succumb to any pressures or threats, and to persist with the course they charted in Damascus and Amman for the peace talks with Israel.

U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton has hastened to affirm that there will be no change in U.S. foreign policy, especially with regard to the Middle East peace process, and that he supports the efforts made by the Bush administration to make progress in this area. It is a well-known fact that the Washington talks have failed to make progress due to the intransigence of the Israeli rulers, their refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the U.S. Administration's preoccupation with the presidential elections.

Now that the U.S. elections are over, we do not rule out the possibility of the Israeli rulers attempting to make the new administration espouse positions that run counter to the resolutions of international legitimacy, and which could eventually torpedo the peace process and thwart the efforts made throughout the past year. Jerusalem is the focus of the attention of all Arabs and Muslims. The Security Council clearly rejected Israel's annexation of Jerusalem, just as it rejected its annexation of the Golan. As for the new U.S. Administration, if it really seeks to achieve a true and firm peace in the Middle East, it must affirm its commitment to the Security Council resolutions and grant the Palestinian people the right to self-determination. This is because human rights and the rights of peoples are indivisible. Besides, rights cannot be granted to this country and denied to another. Furthermore, it is well-known to the peoples of the world and to all world governments, without exception, that Israel is perpetrating gross human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories, and that it is flagrantly and dangerously violating the charters of the international community, as well as the principles this community cherishes by its pursuit of a policy based on annexation, settlement, eviction, displacement, and oppression.

President-Elect Clinton opposed the U.S. war in Vietnam in the past. It follows from this that it would not be out of character for him to endeavor to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and put an end to the Israeli war that has been waged against the Arabs for almost 50 years.

Syria and the Arabs declared their commitment to the peace process in accordance with the rules of international legitimacy. Hence, it is important for the new administration to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of the conflict in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to advance the peace process and reassert the peaceful U.S. role, particularly if we do not want to see Israel view the Democratic Party's election victory as a green light to persist with its policy of expansion and settlement.

Jordanian Transport Minister Meets Officals

Discusses Peace Process With Khaddam

JN0511071692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam yesterday received 'Ali al-Suhaymat, Jordan's deputy prime minister and transport minister. The meeting was attended by Transportation Minister Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus. Conversation during the meeting revolved around the situation in the region, progress in the Middle East peace process, and bilateral ties.

Talks With Al-Zu'bi About Ties

JN0511131792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning received 'Ali al-Suhaymat, Jordan's deputy prime minister and transport minister.

Talks at the meeting dealt with bilateral economic, technical, and commercical relations in all fields, and the steps that are being implemented in accordance with the agreements concluded between the two countries.

DPRK Chief of Staff Concludes Visit

JN0411161492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the DPRK Armed Forces, left Damascus at noon today. Vice Marshal Choe said his talks with ranking Syrian officials stemmed from a desire to maintain and develop bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Congratulates U.S. President-Elect

LD0511185992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1720 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, sent the following (?congratulatory telegram to the United States) addressed to President-elect Bill Clinton:

Allow me to express my sincere congratulations on behalf of the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and myself on the occasion of your election as President of the United States. I am fully confident that the existing friendly relations between the peoples and governments of the two countries [words indistinct] and these relations will be further broadened under your leadership in the interests of the two country's peoples and in the interests of international peace and security.

Bangladesh

Commentary Hails Clinton's Election Victory

BK0511165492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh has acclaimed the resounding victory of Bill Clinton in the U.S. elections in which he was swept into the White House as the U.S. president for the next four years. President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the occasion hoped that bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and the United States would grow from strength to strength under the leadership of President-Elect Bill Clinton.

In another message, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed the hope that the United States would continue to play an effective role in promotion of world peace, stability, justice, and economic and social progress, and larger freedom. The prime minister said the people of Bangladesh viewed with keen interest the closely fought election in United States and surmised different issues of international importance that figured prominently in the polls campaign. The Bangladesh prime minister conveyed her greetings on behalf of the people and the government to Bill Clinton and hoped that close cooperation between Bangladesh and the United States will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years to come.

Leader of the opposition in Bangladesh parliament, Sheikh Hasina, in yet another message extended her congratulations to Bill Clinton and hoped that the cause of democracy worldwide will actively be pursued by the United States under his leadership.

The United States is a fruitful development partner of Bangladesh. Its involvement in different sectors of Bangladesh economy is so comprehensive that the South Asian country greatly counts on its economic assistance. Most of the bilateral aid comes through the USAID [United States Agency for International Development]. Currently, the American assistance goes to sectors that alleviate poverty in Bangladesh and it is also used in implementing programs like rural electrification and family planning. Moreover, the United States provides favored-nation treatment to exports from Bangladesh. There are no quota restrictions on imports of Bangladeshi garments into the United States now.

On the political plane, Dhaka has always received U.S. support in times of the country's trials and tribulations. In the last year's catastrophic cyclone, President Bush had dispatched a naval fleet to Bangladesh's southeastern coast to save millions from death traps.

It is expected that President-Elect Bill Clinton will strengthen the U.S. relations with countries of Asia, including Bangladesh. As Clinton said just before the election day, as a Pacific power, the U.S. will continue to have important security interests in Asia in the post-Cold War era. The U.S. bilateral security alliances and agreements give Washington an important role in working with Asian allies to ensure regional peace, he said. Bill Clinton said the promotion of democracy and the protection of human rights abroad served America's concrete economic and security interests at home. Democratic countries should not go to war with one another and did not sponsor terrorism and they make better partners in trade and diplomacy, he pointed out. In an interview, Mr. Bill Clinton said the United States under his administration will participate in international efforts to control population growth through programs, such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and through bilateral aid programs.

Bangladesh shares the ideals that the U.S. president-elect had [word indistinct] just before his election. Bill Clinton said the United States has its share of international concern over violation of universal declaration of human rights adopted by the United Nations. It indeed augurs well for the future of democracy in countries like Bangladesh that the president-elect has vowed to work closely with other democratic nations in Asia in promoting human rights in the region. The Bangladesh prime minister, in close cooperation with the opposition parties, had struggled hard during the last nine years to remove vestiges of autocracy in the country to grow democracy through preservation of human rights. There is now not a single detainee in Bangladesh's prison.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Sri Lanka 5 Nov

BK0511162292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka for Sri Lanka today on a first leg of his tour to the

SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] nations to extend formal invitation to the SAARC leaders for the seventh summit scheduled for next month in Dhaka. Before departure, the foreign minister said the Dhaka summit will add a new dimension to the SAARC. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman is expected to begin his second trip to India, Pakistan, and Nepal on the 12th of this month. King Jigme Wangchuk of Bhutan has already been invited through Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam.

India

Commentary Views Victory of Bill Clinton

BK0511133992 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Om Narain Commentary]

[Text] A Democrat returned to the White House after 12 years. Mr. Bill Clinton, the 42d president of the United States belongs to a new generation of people who were born after the World War II. Even before the formal announcement, President George Bush conceded victory to his 46-year-old rival, the moment he was convinced that the electoral college would not give any chance for the Republican candidate a second term. Mr. Bush was among the first leaders to offer his felicitations to Mr. Clinton, Governor of Arkansas. The landslide victory for the Democratic candidate indicated that he bagged the support of 370 members, 100 more than needed for election.

The Clinton victory was particularly impressive, because it came against an incumbent president. It is now obvious that the people [word indistinct] to the campaign theme of change put forward so relentlessly by the Clinton-Gore campaign. President Clinton campaigned on the theme of putting people first. He argued that to stimulate the flagging U.S. economy, the federal government should invest in education and training, job development, health care, and a host of other social and economic programs aimed at giving people the opportunity to become productive citizens. At the same time, he called upon Americans to be responsible about paying society back if they received help from the government.

The new president has also stressed the vital connection between domestic and foreign policy in a transformed post-cold war era. In a world of change, he said in an address to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, security flows from initiative, not from inertia. In this new era, our first foreign priority and our first domestic priority are one and the same—reviving our economy. America must regain its economic strength to play a proper role as leader of the world. The world needs a strong America and American strength begins right here at home.

It is significant that Democrats are also in firm control of both houses of Congress for which elections were held at the same time. The party improved its tally from 57 to 58 in the Upper House out of a total of 100. In the current Congress, the Democrats have 268 votes and Republicans 166. Mr. Clinton will, therefore, have an advantage in pushing through programs which his predecessor Republicans Mr. Bush and Mr. Ronald Reagan could not.

Political circles opine that India has to proceed with a tinge of caution and care while dealing with the United States. Factors contributing to warmth between the two countries in recent months as highlighted by growing contacts in the military field will retain their relevance. In the economic area, however, to which Democrats are committed to according to priority, things may go worse to some extent. Questions of market access and safeguards for intellectual property rights may assume greater importance for the U.S. provisions like Super-301, which is now part of the statute book, has been brought about by the Democrat-dominated Congress and this should act as an important aspect of New Delhi's relations with the U.S. However, President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, while felicitating U.S. president-elect Bill Clinton over his victory, have said that they are looking forward to working with him in imparting a new dynamism to the long-standing friendship between the two countries.

In fact, India and the United States of America shared many fundamental values and concerns. As democracies, the two countries are committed to working closely to fashion the furture course of bilateral relations and to tackle crucial global issues. The post-cold war era has before it many new challenges. The community of nations has to tackle them with a renewed spirit of cooperation and understanding. As Mr. Narasimha Rao quoted, both Jawaharlal Nehru and John Kennedy shared a vision forging closer ties between two largest democracies in the world. The post-cold [war] era, provides an unprecedented opportunity to translate this vision into an enduring relationship based on mutual interest, trust, and shared responsibility. Mr. Clinton won on a negative vote and he will be judged by his positive leadership which depends on his success in translating his change versus status quo slogan into reality.

BJP Wants Policy Review After U.S. 'Change'

BK0611125692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, says that the government should review its foreign policy in the light of changing world scenario. In his opening remarks at the three-day meeting of the party national executive in Bhubaneshwar today, Dr. Joshi said India will have to take into account the change in the United States. Dr. Joshi said Pakistan's continued interference in Kashmir is a matter of greater

concern and illegal migration of 1.5 crore Bangladeshis to India has posed a threat to the economy of the country.

Talks With U.S. on 'Nuclear Issue' Previewed

BK0611112792 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Commentary by Kripasagar: "Indo-U.S. Talks on Nuclear Issue"]

[Text] Since the second round of Indo-U.S. talks on nuclear proliferation issue is scheduled to take place in Washington on the 12th and 13th of this month, it is time to take stock of nuclear threats to India. It would also be realistic to take stock of the changes in nuclear perceptions since the last talks held in New Delhi in June.

The U.S., France, and Russia have agreed to a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing initially for a year. The U.S. Congress has even proposed that the U.S. should stop testing permanently from 1997, but this depends on other developments taking over the world, both foreseeable and unexpected. At least so far nuclear proliferation is not a hot issue, as it used to be among the Western nations. As far as the reports go, the U.S. has stopped making nuclear weapons, discontinued production of fissile materials, abandoned a plan to put up a plant to make [word indistinct] required for triggers for nuclear weapons. Besides it is withdrawing its tactical nuclear weapons, disbanding its strategic air command, and has taken its nuclear forces off (?alert).

But China, India's immediate neighbor, has not indicated its intention to join the arms reduction process and continues to conduct nuclear tests. It conducted a megaton underground nuclear test on 21 May 1992 when President Venkataraman was still on their soil. China conducted one more nuclear test in a horizontal shaft on 25 September 1992. These tests leave a political message to the world and India in particular. China has also not indicated whether it would suspend testing.

Though the Chinese talk of their no-use pledge, they have not explained why such a country needs tactical nuclear weapons after its principal adversaries have eliminated them. Chinese, on the other hand, helped Pakistan by way of technology transfer for nuclear-weapon triggering mechanisms in 1983-84. China and Pakistan have signed an ongoing nuclear technological relationship. Last year, on 25 July, Senator John Glenn, while addressing the U.S. Senate, had said, I quote, if China continues to pose a nuclear threat to India and to provide bomb technology to Pakistan, prospects for a regional regime will vanish, unquote.

Against this background, Indian side should tell the U.S. for a settlement of China's nuclear posture. [sentence as heard] The Japanese and Southeast Asian nations are also worried about China's growing nuclear arsenals.

The threat to India is still potent from another angle. China has been included in the five-nation conference proposed by Pakistan and USA. Pakistan has attempted to project China as a potential guarantor, which cannot be accepted by India even if China solves its border issue with India. It was the Chinese nuclear threat that made Dr. Bhabha advocate India going nuclear; Lal Bahadur Shastri to seek a nuclear umbrella from the UK, which was, however, turned down; Shastri to change the Nehru policy of never making nuclear weapons to keeping the option open; Shastri to sanction the subterranean nuclear explosion project of Pokhran; India's refusal to sign the nonproliferation treaty; and the signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace and Friendship. Since then, the threat has rather increased, with the transfer of weapon-related technology to Pakistan and Pakistan developing nuclear weapons, the deployment of missiles in Tibet, and the continued possession of tactical nuclear weapons.

India's improvement of relations with China is given as an argument for India to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. Then the same argument rather forcefully applies to the West, which continues to have a nuclear capability for fear of a reversal of Russian policy. Russian policies and their continued nuclear capability are regarded as justification for the U.S., Britain, and France to continue to maintain their nuclear deterrent. The issue of breakdown of the ex-Soviet arsenal, as raised by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the Security Council in January this year, is another factor which should be seen in the light of fast growth of Muslim fundamentalism in the region.

It is better for U.S. to consider the need to reverse the nonproliferation treaty when it comes up for extension in 1995 on the lines suggested by the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, or an alternative NPT suggested by the late Rajiv Gandhi in 1988, to remove its shortcomings and make it nondiscriminatory.

Talks With Pakistan on Sir Creek Resume 5 Nov

BK0511125692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] India and Pakistan resumed talks on the Sir Creek issue in New Delhi this morning. The Indian side at the two-day talks is led by Mr. Nareshwar Dayal, additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, while the Pakistani delegation is headed by his counterpart, Mr. Khalid Salim. The meeting is considering proposals for a comprehensive resolution on the issue.

Minister Discusses Arms Smuggling From Pakistan

BK0611104892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] In Gujarat, the water wing of the Border Security Force (BSF) in Kori and Sir Creek is to be strengthened by providing more speed and mechanized boats and

water craft to counter smuggling of arms from across the border through Kutch. The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, who was on a day's visit to the Kutch region, said a number of urgent measures have been envisaged to check the menace. Talking to newsmen in Bhuj, Mr Jacob said constant and effective surveillance is necessary to prevent smuggling of arms from Pakistan.

Telecommunications Agreement Signed With France

BK0611075492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] India and France has signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a telecommunication network for high-speed software data transmission between the two countries. The documents were exchanged between the secretary, Department of Electronics, Mr. N. Vithal, and the Ambassador of France in India, Mr. (Philippe Pateen), in New Delhi yesterday.

Human Resource Minister Leaves for PRC Visit

BK0611072892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The Human Resource Development Minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, left for China this morning on a seven-day visit. Mr. Arjun Singh will have talks with his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Li Tieying and call on the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Li Peng.

New Party Adopts Economic, Political Resolutions

BK0511161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] The Samajwadi Party, at the national convention in Lucknow today, unanimously adopted economic and political resolutions. The political resolution criticized the center for granting diplomatic recognition to Israel and described it as inconsistent with the established foreign policy of the country. The resolution favors negotiated settlement of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] tangle, failing which the concerned party should abide by the court verdict. The party expressed grave concern over the prevailing situation in Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam and criticized the center for inept handling of the situation.

The economic resolution criticized the industrial and economic policy of the government and held the center responsible for the price rise in the country. The resolution demanded immediate implementation of the Mandal Commission report.

Customs, Trade Group Said to Mar Business Image

BK0611035792 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Oct 92 p 13

[Excerpts] At a time when the Government has embarked on a seminar spree abroad on 'Doing Business with India', its credibility has been dealt a severe blow due to unprofessional approach adopted by the State Trading Corporation (STC) and the Customs Department in an import transaction.

The engineered dispute over import of glazed newsprint paper from Canada, which was recently adjudicated in favour of the STC and the Canadian supplier, is far from over. The dispute has thrown up basic issues about the role of anonymous informants acting at the behest of business rivals influencing the working of Customs Department and the STC, the authenticity of product test reports prepared by Government Laboratories and the contempt for international business norms shown by public sector trading companies such as the STC.

It has also brought under the spotlight bureaucratic indifference towards hapless foreign suppliers and the reputation of foreign inspection agencies such as SGS Supervision Services Inc, a Swiss firm, which was considered seriously by the Finance Ministry early this year for overseas inspection of all importable cargo.

While the Government and STC have failed to resolve these issues, the Canadian Government has taken STC "off cover" for failing to honour its contractual obligation in the newsprint import case. Canada has also taken up the issue with the signatories of Berne Convention and urged them to take similar action against STC.

The newsprint supplier, Universal Paper Export Co., which has so far been pleading with STC and the Commerce Ministry to respect the business norms, is now left with no option but to sue the STC for loss of business and reputation. It remains to be seen whether SGS will lodge any protest with the Government for besmirching its reputation in this case. [passage omitted]

It is understood that the Government is now considering ways to bail out the STC with the help of its legal advisors and through inter-ministerial consultations. But will the Government take action against the officials of the Customs Department, its laboratories and the STC for engineering the controversy and spoiling the reputation of Universal and SGS?

The Government's actions in this case will determine whether it means business or just baloney.

Iran

Radio Says U.S. 'Implicitly Accepted' Spy Charge

LD0611112492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] The Government of the United States has appealed to the Islamic Republic of Iran to allow the Swiss Embassy staff in Tehran to privately visit the American spy Milton Meier.

The U.S. State Department spokesman, who was speaking at a news conference yesterday, in making the said request, implicitly accepted the espionage charge of that individual.

In reply to a question on Meier's links with the U.S. Government, he said that he could not comment on that issue.

Swiss Businessman Charged With 'Illegal Contacts'

LD0511161392 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1500 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Iran has officially charged Hans Buehler, the Swiss businessman who was detained by the Iranian authorities in March. A spokesman for the Swiss Foreign Ministry said Mr. Buehler was accused of illegal contacts with members of the Iranian Armed Forces, corruption and the illegal consumption of alcohol. He was officially charged at the end of an eight month investigation into the charges against him but a trial date has still to be set. Iran told Switzerland his case had now been passed onto the head of the military court in Tehran and that his lawyer would be permitted to see the files on his client and prepare his defense.

Clinton Cited on Iran, Palestinian Government

LD0511172192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Bill Clinton, the new American president, has said that he is ready to establish normal diplomatic relations with Iran, provided that Tehran brings itself in line with Washington.

Clinton told the NEW YORK TIMES that the establishment of relations with Iran is conditional upon Iran putting aside its hot political slogans, bringing itself in line with America, and cooperating with its regional neighbors for the establishment of peace and tranquillity.

During the interview he rejected the idea of setting up an independent Palestinian government inside the occupied territories, and said that it is now the Arabs' turn to make concessions.

Commentaries View Clinton Election Victory

Dailies Comment

LD0511184192 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Three leading morning dailies Thursday commented on Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential elections with 'ABRAR' expecting reduced U.S. pressure on world countries, the 'TEHRAN TIMES' calling on the U.S. to refrain from a hostile attitude towards Iran, and 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' stressing that both the Republicans and the Democrats are pro-Israel.

'ABRAR' in a commentary published both in Persian and English wrote "although experience has proved that change of presidents in the White House has no effect on the anti-Islamic and imperialistic nature of U.S. foreign policy, however, under current international conditions, it seems that the new democratic leaders in America have no choice but to change the foreign priorities of this country."

"The Republicans were defeated because they laid too much stress on foreign policy while the Democrats were victorious because they gave priority to domestic issues in their programs."

It stressed that "the worsening economic conditions in America necessitates greater attention to be paid to domestic issues. This means more resources have to be allocated to solving domestic problems rather than establishing Bush's 'new world order.'"

According to ABRAR, "Washington should streamline unnecessary and excessive expenditures in order to reduce the fiscal deficit and rising inflation" the military expenditure in particular now that the historic enemy of capitalism, the Soviet Communism, has collapsed.

It predicted the reduction in military budget, withdrawal of U.S. forces from certain foreign bases, specially in Europe and reduced U.S. pressure on world countries to some extent.

"The same reasons that forced Gorbachev to change the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and to reduce the 'mother' country's commitments towards smaller Communist parties, will also force Bill Clinton to act more cautiously on the international scene and to reduce U.S. interferences."

The commentary in conclusion wrote, "under such circumstances, when the West is facing its own internal economic problems, and the former east has collapsed, it is necessary for Third World and independent countries to adopt logical and suitable strategies to use this opportunity to strengthen themselves, so that the next century, the 21st century, may be turned into a 'Third World' century."

'TEHRAN TIMES' said in its editorial that the U.S. elections, in recent times, have always been influenced by events in Iran and added "during 12 years of Republican Administration, U.S. Governments have been pursuing the most hostile policies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, and our people have bitter memories of these years."

"We have no illusion about the Democrats, but we believe that the global situation has changed so that it requires a new attitude by the U.S," it stressed.

"Bush believed that America owed the world its leadership and he insisted this leadership must come during his time. Clinton, however, has said that he would be America's President only, not that of the world.

"It remains to be seen how he will act once in the office, but it is unlikely that Democrats would take more hostile actions against Iran than the Republicans did."

"To show their good-will, the Democrats could return our assets, rethink their policies in the region, stop supporting terrorists and anti-revolutionaries, and in short refrain from a hostile attitude against the Islamic Republic of Iran. If that's the way they chose to go, it could pave the way for a better atmosphere."

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said "after 12 years a Democrat will lead a country whose people seem to be lost in a sea of problems. Their state of affairs, however, would be different if they really cared to understand how Zionists turn and twist their destiny specially when the country comes up for the presidential elections."

Underlining that "the Zionist state was more than pleased at the outcome" it said "the Arabs are in a state of shock. They are aware that Clinton is openly pro-Israel and during the campaign had reportedly said that he would distance his Administration from Bush's pro-Arab policies."

"Republican or Democrat, all first-timers running for high offices in the U.S. cannot afford not to be pro-Israel. They are fully up-dated on how Zionist tricks can work, and do work, in election years. The Bush defeat was, rather, another example of the kind," the editorial concluded.

Radio Examines Possibilities for Change

LD0511205992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1045 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Station "political commentary"]

[Excerpts] With the victory of Bill Clinton, the Democratic Party's candidate in the U.S. presidential elections, the 12-year-old administration of the Republican Party in that country has ended. [passage omitted]

The relevant question now is: What changes will take place in America's foreign policy and in her relations with her allies in general?

To answer this question, it should be remembered that Clinton's victory was not achieved because of his personal popularity or because the American people were seeking some sort of political change. The victory of the Democratic Party owed much to that party's election slogans, which focused on prioritizing America's domestic issues. Based on this assumption, is a new wave of isolationism hitting American politics and economics?

It is futile to imagine that a new Monroe Doctrine, followed by a 100-year period of political and economic isolationism, will once again appear on Washington's agenda. International conditions and the situation in America are such that the world of capitalism is very closely tied to America as the sole superpower. On the other hand, American scholars and researchers believe that paying too much attention to international issues has prevented American statesmen from attending to domestic issues—strengthening the foundations of the competitive economy, education and training, health services, and the family. In short, the significant imbalance between the United States' international commitments and her resources has paved the way for the gradual decline of America's global power.

If we accept the comments of former President Richard Nixon and America's theoreticians that economic power and ideological pressures will be the determining factors in the future world, America is a loser as far as both these factors are concerned under the present circumstances.

The Democratic Party and Clinton—America's new president—claim that they will prevent America from declining further. This means that America will have to change and adjust her political and economic relations internally and externally.

It is obvious that one cannot do too much over a period of four years but, if we are to believe the election slogans and consider their fulfillment as political and economic necessities, then hope for a fundamental change in America's politics and economics can be justified.

Regarding Europe, trans-Atlantic relations will be adjusted from the political, economic, and military standpoints. America's military presence in Europe and the heavy expenditures involved, on the one hand, and America's protests over the trade deficit with Europe and her concern over Europe as an economic fortress which will be taking shape within the framework of a united Europe in 1993 are among the issues that will be raised in this regard.

America's standing as Europe's political and economic leader in the Cold War era will drop to the same level as her European partners. And Europe, in view of America's preoccupation with domestic issues and with strengthening her economic capacities, will follow the path to greater independence. This does not mean economic war. It is more telling of the need for intense economic competition in industrial innovation and the improvement in the quality and quantity of goods and services.

If Europe continues its resistance in the Uruguay round of the GATT talks, America will be forced to resort to economic protectionism to strengthen the union of the free trade zone of North America, consisting of Canada, America, and Mexico, in the hope of being able to compete with the European economic bloc.

Under the best of circumstances, the adoption of each of these policies will be accompanied by a lot of danger because America—which is facing a budget deficit of approximately $290 billion per year, economic stagnation, and reduced economic competitive capacities—does not enjoy favorable conditions.

Envoy Denies Iranian Arms Supply to Tajikistan

LD0511225292 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Dushanbe, Nov. 5, IRNA—Iran's ambassador in Tajikistan here Wednesday denied allegations that the Islamic Republic had supplied arms to one of the warring sides in Tajikistan.

'Ali Mojtahed-Shabestari, in an interview with Tajikistan Radio, said such claims are absurd and that Iran could not send arms to Tajikistan because there is no common border between the two countries. Furthermore, Dushanbe Airport is controlled by teams of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

As for Tehran's humanitarian aid to the Tajik people, the Iranian diplomat told the radio that the relief supplies are delivered to Tajikistan's Red Crescent Society at the airport.

He dismissed claims that Iranian media were not giving enough coverage to Tajikistan's developments. On the contrary, he added, both print and broadcast media are giving prominent coverage to the news from this country. The Iranian ambassador also accused Western media of attempting to mar Tehran-Dushanbe relations.

As for the ongoing fighting in Tajikistan, he called for an end to the clashes and said they put the country's independence in jeopardy. Emphasizing the principle of non-interference in affairs of other countries, Mojtahed-Shabestari said Iran was ready to help find a peaceful settlement of the problem.

Radio Quotes Norwegian on Arms Sales to Khomeyni

NC0611081692 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] A Norwegian deputy addressing parliament questioned his government over involvement in the sale of 300 cannons by a Norwegian company to the Khomeyni regime. Addressing parliament, Mr. Paul Chaffey asked the Norwegian commerce minister—who was present in parliament to answer the charges—why from 1985 to 1987 the necessary steps were not taken with regard to halting illicit arms sales to the Khomeyni regime.

Continuing his speech, he stated that the Khomeyni regime is grappling with an internal resistance movement, and arm sales to this regime are unjustified and violate Norwegian law. Answering the deputy's charges, the Norwegian commerce minister recounted the steps taken and said that the matter is being investigated.

Azerbaijani Economist Discusses Trade, Ownership

LD0511185292 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Economist Dr. Aidyn Mamdov, who is member of the Academy of Azerbaijan, told Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbass Maleki here Thursday that trade exchanges with Iran forms 36 per cent of the total value of the foreign trade of that republic.

He said in the wake of the collapse of Communism the system of land ownership in that republic has been undergoing drastic changes, and added that currently the cooperative land ownership system prevailing in China and a similar system in the United States are being studied and compared as models on the basis of which to revise the land ownership system in that republic.

The visiting economist from Azerbaijan is to lecture on Iran-Azerbaijan trade and economic relations at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) in Tehran this Sunday morning.

Shahid Foundation Hospitals Ready for Bosnians

LD0511224592 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—The deputy manager of Shahid Foundation for International Relations was quoted by ABRAR daily today as saying that its hospitals in Iran are ready to admit the injured Bosnians.

In view of the popular support to the Bosnian Muslims and in line with the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in helping the world Muslims, the foundation is responsible for dispatching emergency supplies and money provided by Iranians to the homeless Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the official said.

On other activities of the Shahid Foundation in the international arena, the official said for the time being, 2,000 martyrs families in Lebanon are under financial assistance of the foundation and an educational center called "Shahid School" is to be set up in Lebanon in a near future.

He said, "The foundation is ready to come to help any martyrs' family across the world".

The Shahid Foundation is identifying families in Palestine, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia whose mambers have been martyred for the cause of Islam to help them.

Cabinet Approves Articles on Islamic Councils

LD0511224192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] The cabinet approved 10 articles of a bill on the setup and duties of the State Islamic Councils in a

session last night. The bill was proposed by the Interior Ministry and had undergone a preliminary study by the Cabinet Political Commission. Continued study of the bill and any amendments had been deferred to the cabinet session.

The steps for setting up Islamic councils in urban and rural areas, the number of members, and the councils' duties are set out in the bill. One of the duties of the city councils is to select the mayor.

Center Compares 1990, 1991 Retail Prices

LD0511182192 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—The index of retail prices for rural households in the winter of 1991 was 6.1 per cent higher than it was in the preceding winter, the public relations office of the National Statistics Department said in a press release here Thursday. The index, as compared by that in the winter of 1990 ,was up by 17.7 per cent. The 6.1 per cent seasonal increase in the general index was the result of the growth of nine per cent in the index of foodstuff items, beverages and tobacco, and another increase of 2.8 per cent in the index of non-food staples and services, it said.

In the same season food staples rose by 10 per cent, beverages by 1.8 per cent, while the index of prices for tobacco and cigarettes dropped by 2.9 per cent. In that season sugar and sugar-based eatables, tea, dried fruits and provisions dropped while other categories of food staples appreciated.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, red and white meat, cooking oils, ready-made foods, dairy and eggs, spices and seasonings, flour, flour-based thin solid strings, cereals and bread respectively rose by 52.8 per cent, 14.5 per cent, 50 per cent, 4.8 per cent, 4.1 per cent, 2.5 per cent, and 1.5 per cent.

The report says that during that season the index of prices of non-food staples and services shows a slower growth rate as compared with the previous year.

The highest growth of prices in seasonal increase was in miscellaneous items and services, health services and medications, which respectively rose by 6.9 per cent and 6.8 per cent.

Coming next in that respect were the idices for clothing and footwear 3.5 per cent, household utensils and furniture 2.4 per cent, transportation and communications 0.3 per cent and housing, fuel and electricity 1.2 per cent.

Pakistan

Ministers, Press React to Clinton's Election

Khan Hopes for Improved U.S. Ties

BK0611072092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed the hope that relations between Pakistan and the United States will further improve after the election of Bill Clinton as president. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said Pakistan would continue its cooperation with the United States in accordance with principles and keeping in view its national interests.

Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign affairs, has said Pakistan has a long-standing relationship with the United States based on shared values and mutual trust. Addressing educational experts at Harvard University in Boston, he said Pakistan wants to continue dialogue with the United States to remove current tension in relations.

About foreign policy initiatives being taken by the present government, he said Pakistan's proposal to declare South Asia a nuclear free zone, its efforts to engage India in a meaningful dialogue on Kashmir, and the conclusion of the Peshawar Accord on Afghanistan were designed to promote peace in the region. Pakistan is also determined to strengthen its economic, cultural and trade relations with the Central Asia Republics.

Information Minister Echoes Sentiments

BK0511153992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Federal Information Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika has expressed the hope that Pakistan's relations with the United Nations will improve in the wake of the election of Bill Clinton as U.S. president. Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, he said Islamabad desires that Pakistan and India should be treated equally in the application of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and its provisions. He expressed the hope that the U.S. president-elect will take note of the serious violation of human rights by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. Answering a question, Abdul Sattar Lalika said that the people will not participate in opposition's protest rallies, thereby frustrating their campaign.

Daily Welcomes 'New Generation' President

BK0511121392 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "A New Generation Takes Over"]

[Text] The Persian proverb "Exit the ass, enter the bull" about sums up the attitude of many of our political observers towards the election of the US President "Bush or Clinton, what difference does it make?" The differences between the Republicans and the Democrats

in the United States, particularly in the field of foreign affairs, many be minimal, but they are still of great importance to us, and we must make a dispassionate assessment of the policies likely to be followed by the new President, Bill Clinton.

George Bush kept Pakistan under constant pressure, and the attitude of the Republican government towards the freedom struggle of the people of Kashmir lacked moral content. We recall the highly provocative and unprincipled communication from the US State Department earlier this year that if Pakistan did not cease to support the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir, the United States would declare Pakistan a "terrorist state."

George Bush did not enhance his image as he went flailing and wailing during the election campaign relying on character assassination as his main political weapon. It did not work. As the campaign reached its peak, George Bush receded into the past. The American people did not buy his phony triumphs in self-made wars and repudiated his new world order.

We welcome the new generation which has assumed command in the United States with the election of Bill Clinton who displayed great qualities of courage and moderation throughout "the long ride" to the election day. We understand his anxiety to stimulate the US economy and to put greater emphasis on healthcare and public welfare. The revival of the American economy will be good for the world economy.

We share Bill Clinton's concern for human rights and his commitment to democratic principles. We hope that he will adopt a more sympathetic approach towards the struggle of the people of Kashmir for self-determination, and use his influence to persuade the Indian Government to abandon its present barbaric policy towards the people of Kashmir. There is urgent need to review the situation in this subcontinent. The US must understand the genuine fears of India's neighbours, big and small. These fears are at the root of the whole problem of diversion of national resources towards armaments. India should bring about a substantial reduction in conventional arms and join in establishing a regime for nuclear non-proliferation in the region. The important thing which the new President must recognise is that the initiative in this must come from India. Unless that happens, India's smaller neighbours will have no option but to keep themselves in a state of readiness to defend their sovereignty.

We also hope that President Clinton will adopt a more realistic attitude towards the People's Republic of China. We would dismiss all the talk about the "Butchers of Beijing" as campaign rhetoric. China is a major political reality in the world and the United States must adjust itself to the legitimate needs and demands of the Chinese people.

Above all, Bill Clinton must provide his full support to the Palestinians to establish an independent and sovereign state of their own. Israel must be made to disgorge Arab lands and stop all settlements on the West Bank. The US may be in a positon to clobber the supine Arab regimes into recognising Israel, but that will not solve the Palestine problem, without which there can be no peace in the Middle East.

In his acceptance speech, Bill Cinton said that the United States must prepare to meet the challenges of the end of the cold war and the beginning of the next century. The American response to these challenges will have a decisive influence on the course of world history and we hope that under Bill Clinton's loadership the response will be inspired by genuine concern for global peace and prosperity.

Perhaps the most inspiring moment during the election was the recognition of the majesty of the people and the wholehearted acceptance by the candidates of the judgement of the voters. That marked the triumph of democracy.